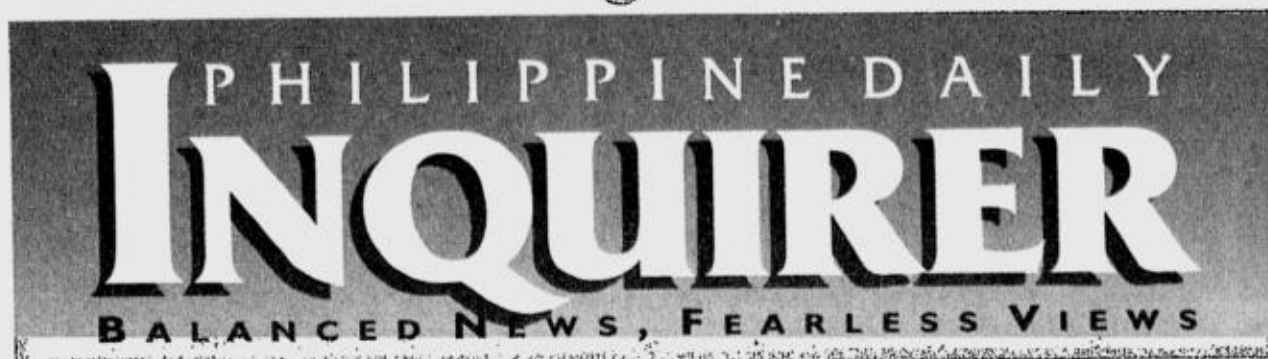


## Next White House chef may be Fil-Am woman



WASHINGTON—It's a reality cooking show with a very limited but influential audience. More than six months since Laura Bush asked the executive chef to pick up his knives and leave the

NEXT/ A6



Monday, August 15, 2005 ★★ 80 pages / 8 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 248

P18

## Lawmaker tells politicians: Stop muddling tape issue

By Michael Lim Ubac  
and Christine O. Avendaño

SAYING the public had had enough, the vice chair of the House justice committee yesterday appealed to politicians to stop "muddling" the "Hello Garci" tape controversy by presenting conflicting reports from expert witnesses.

LAWMAKER/ A0

website: www.inq7.net

# GMA advised: Defer VAT

## But Palace says no action yet on Salceda's proposal

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

AMID SURGING oil prices, an economic adviser has urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to defer the implementation of the 10-percent expanded valued-added tax should the Supreme Court lift the freeze order on the VAT law.

The tribunal is expected to lift the temporary restraining order this month.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda yesterday said that once the freeze order was lifted, "the administration will exhaust means to legally postpone the effects of the VAT reform law until global oil prices ease to \$50 (per barrel) where we reckon it would be tolerable."

Implementing the VAT law will further raise the prices of fuel, electricity and a host of other products and services.

Salceda, one of the President's economic advisers, warned that at \$67 per barrel of crude, the pump price of unleaded gasoline could easily exceed P40 a liter "even with mitigating measures."

Crude prices rose to \$67.10 a barrel in New York Friday, up at least 60 percent since August 2004, prompting the Arroyo administration to urge the public to conserve energy.

But Rigoberto Tiglao, Presidential Management Staff chief, said last night that Salceda's proposal covered only fuel because of the oil crisis.

"No move on the executive's part," Tiglao

said in a text message to the INQUIRER, as he noted that the subject was still "moot and academic at this point since there's a temporary restraining order."

The Supreme Court suspended the implementation of the VAT law, the centerpiece of the President's economic reform agenda, on July 1 just hours after it took effect because of petitions seeking its nullification.

Tiglao said Salceda had offered his proposal only to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla. It was "very, very preliminary," the PMS chief said.

But Salceda, the House of Representatives' economic expert, said he had already briefed the President on the consequences of pushing through with the VAT. "She has not yet texted me back. My personal guess? She would be open to it."

He said the administration should not be cowed by the threat of another downgrade from credit rating agencies. "We just have to make a case. Let's not be too afraid (of them)."

Three international rating agencies—Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings and Moody's In-

GMA/A7



**DARING DIVES**  
Five young boys take turns jumping into the Loboc River in Bohol from an overhanging coconut tree. The river is a popular destination for tourists who pay to watch the boys perform.

KARL SUMBELING

## Bishops say impeach bid must go on despite pain

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.  
PDI Visayas Bureau  
and Christine O. Avendaño  
in Manila

THE INCOMING president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) wants the impeachment proceedings against President Macapagal-Arroyo to continue, "no matter how painful they may be."

"I hope that everybody—congressmen, senators as well as our President—will stand to the truth," Iloilo Archbishop Angel Lagdameo told reporters in Iloilo City after rites commemorating the 25th anniversary of his episcopal ordination on Friday.

Lagdameo said the CBCP was standing by its earlier position that the political crisis could be resolved either through a truth commission or the impeachment or voluntary resignation of Ms Arroyo.

In a separate interview, Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, who was among those who attended the commemoration, called on legislators to continue the impeachment proceedings.

"I hope the impeachment would go on because it's the only way we will know the truth as far as the Constitution is concerned. We hope that our congressmen will not stop the impeachment process," Vidal said.

Several impeachment complaints have been filed against the President, accusing her of culpable violation of the Constitution, corruption and fraud in connection with the presidential election last year.

On Wednesday, the House committee on justice suspended its first hearing on the impeachment complaints because of bickering over procedures. It is expected to resume its hearing tomorrow to start determining whether the complaints are sufficient in form.

But Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said last week that the President and her men were giving their all to prevent Ms Arroyo from being impeached.

Lawyer Romulo Macalintal, BISHOPS/ A7

## Senga takes over as GMA's 8th military chief of staff



**SENGA: Incoming AFP chief of staff vows to continue Abu's policy of keeping the military 'apolitical.'**

By Luigi A. del Puerto,  
Dona Pazzibugan  
and TJ Burgonio

LT. GEN. Generoso Senga, a tough rebel fighter who served as the voice of the military during the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, takes over a restive military today amid demands by rebellious officers for a purge of officials implicated in allegations President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in last year's election.

Senga will replace Gen. Efren Abu, whose retirement as Armed Forces chief of staff was delayed for 21 days by Ms Arroyo as she battled to overcome the worst political crisis of her 4-year-old presidency.

The Army commanding general becomes the eighth military chief of staff to serve Ms Arroyo, a record for a sitting president. A member of Philippine Military Academy Class

of 1972, the 55-year-old Senga will be AFP chief for less than a year, retiring on July 21, 2006.

Senga had served as AFP Southern Command chief. As commander of the 6th Infantry Division, he led the campaign against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that led to the capture of its base at the Buliok Complex in Central Mindanao.

He was also AFP spokesperson during the "people power" revolt against Estrada in 2001.

Senga said in a brief interview on Friday that he would continue Abu's policy of keeping the 130,000-strong AFP "apolitical" in the current political controversy.

"He is a very capable, soft-spoken officer," said a statement issued yesterday by the Southern Luzon Command. "With his character and managerial style, he

SENGA/ A8

## Acclaimed writer pines for revolution

AFTER five decades spent skewering the Philippine establishment with his writings, the 80-year-old Francisco Sionil Jose could be forgiven for slowing down.

It quickly becomes clear that that is not the case as he nimbly descends the narrow staircase of his downtown Manila bookshop after another day's writing in the study above.

"I wish we could have a revolution," he sighs over a meal at his favorite Korean restaurant next door. "I've been waiting for one half my life."

Sionil Jose's novels depicting the struggles of ordinary Filipinos have been translated into 28 languages, earning him numerous awards and talk of a possible Nobel prize.

But his enduring frustration is

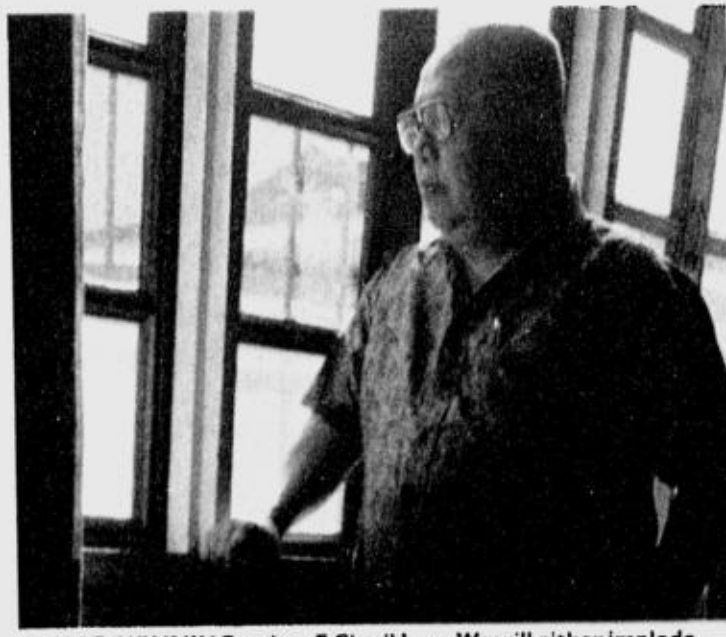
that at home, where millions of Filipinos are more focused on finding their next meal than reading literature, he remains "just an old writer" who has watched the country slip ever deeper into poverty and corruption.

For him, the recent political maelstrom over allegations of election fraud against President Macapagal-Arroyo is merely the latest squabble among a ruling oligarchy that has consistently betrayed the Roman Catholic nation.

"All the things she has done are for herself, to stay in power, but that is true of almost all our leaders," said Sionil Jose, bald and short but looking much younger than his years.

"There is one thing that's missing here. The Koreans have a

ACCLAIMED/ A4



**AWARD-WINNING writer F. Sionil Jose: We will either implode or explode.**

## There's life after Gloria and 'Hello Garci' tapes

By Amanda Doronila

DESPITE their ideological predilections, academics at the University of the Philippines, during moments of grave political crises, have seldom failed to assert their intellectual responsibility to intervene in setting the national agenda and rescuing it from the muddle of corrosive political conflict.

One such recent intervention was the launching on Aug. 8 at the UP Third World Study Center of a "Blueprint for a viable Philippines." The blueprint was drafted by a group of academics led by former UP president Francisco Nemenzo after 20 roundtable dis-

cussions with nonpartisan civil society groups.

The blueprint seeks to serve as "a comprehensive and coherent strategy to address the crisis, arrest public cynicism, and reverse the rapid decline of the State as an instrument for achieving the collective goals of the national community."

It follows the intervention several months earlier of the 11 UP School of Economics academics who issued a paper warning that the country was headed toward financial collapse unless the administration undertook tough reforms to attack the fiscal deficit crisis. The paper scored the Ar-

THERE'S LIFE/ A21





## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY ENKA A. SARMENTO, BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: [pr\\_news@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:pr_news@inquirer.com.ph)

# Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

|              |                   |                |               |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy     | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio       | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas          | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao   | Partly Cloudy     | Cebu           | Partly Cloudy |
| Laos         | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban       | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone   | Partly Cloudy     | Gen. Santos    | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay     | Partly Cloudy     | Zamboanga      | Partly Cloudy |
| Laguna       | Partly Cloudy     | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan      | Partly Cloudy     | Davao          | Partly Cloudy |

## BATTLE FOR MANILA REMEMBERED

# 'One of WWII's greatest tragedies'

THE BATTLE for Manila lasted just 28 days. When it ended on March 3, 1945, over 100,000 civilians were dead and the city known as the Pearl of the Orient had been reduced to rubble.

Six months after street-by-street fighting and US bombardment had leveled the once-proud city, the stench of rotting flesh still lingered in the capital, according to those who survived the ordeal.

"The destruction of Manila was one of the greatest tragedies of World War II. Of all the allied capitals only Warsaw suffered more," wrote American historian William Manchester.

Benito Legarda, who was 18 years old at the time, said the Japanese forces occupying the city since Jan. 2, 1942, went out of their way to make life unlivable once they realized the US military was advancing to recapture the city.

"They dynamited bridges, destroyed utilities and murdered civilians... There was no excuse for what took place in Manila in those 28 days... none at all," Legarda said.

Tales of men, women and children being rounded up and shot, mutilated, raped, decapitated or bayoneted by Japanese troops paint the period as one of the darker episodes in the closing chapter of World War II.

By the end of 1944, the tide had turned for Japan and its conquest of Southeast Asia.

On Oct. 20, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Allied commander in the Far East, invaded the



eastern Philippines in the biggest land and sea assault of the Pacific War with nearly 200,000 men and 700 ships.

MacArthur, who had vowed "I shall return" when he abandoned the Philippines for Australia more than two years earlier,

A CALESA passes in front of ruins that were once the Philippine Legislature after the end of the fighting between US troops and Japanese occupation forces for control of Manila. The photo belongs to the Edgar Krohn Picture Collection. Krohn was a German who was born and lived in the Philippines.

APRIL 1945. KROHN COLLECTION

## SEC MUST PROTECT CAP PLANHOLDERS

The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) asked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to **TAKE OVER THE REMAINING RESOURCES** of College Assurance Plan (CAP) to protect its 700,000 Planholders.

### OUR PROPOSAL TO THE SEC:

1. For the SEC to create a Management Committee that will take over CAP and immediately address the deficiency of CAP's depleted trust fund.
2. For the SEC to ask CAP to return the trust funds and assets used to buy shares of stocks and properties from companies affiliated with or owned and managed by CAP's principal stockholders, officers, and directors.
3. For the SEC to commission a reputable and internationally-recognized accounting firm that will certify the financial condition of the various trust funds and that will, perhaps, act as an oversight committee during the takeover.

### SENATE HEARING - A MAJOR STEP FORWARD:

COPW commends the thorough investigation led by Senators Mar Roxas and Sergio Osmena III with Senators Jamby Madrigal, Panfilo Lacson, Juan Flavio, Alfredo Lim, and Aquilino Pimentel in clarifying the issues on CAP.

For the COPW and thousands of CAP Planholders, the Senate hearing resulted in a major step forward, ensuring Planholders that they will be protected from further anguish and anxiety over tuition fee payments now and in the future.

### CAP ISSUES:

Since February this year, the COPW has called on CAP to address various financial and industry issues mentioned in its four print ads released from February to June this year:

- What exactly is the total number of Planholders and how much exactly is the amount of tuition fees advanced by the parents?
- What is the amount of tuition fees to be paid for each of the next four school years, 2006 - 2010?
- How many are the Traditional or Open-ended plans sold as this is crucial to CAP's viability since tuition fees were **DEREGULATED** in 1990?

The tuition fees for non-exclusive schools increased by 55% per year from 1990 to 1995 and 25% per year from 1996 to 2000.

- CAP has not raised any fresh capital to correct its trust fund deficiency and neither have new fund infusions been brought into CAP to cover its growing trust fund deficiency.
- CAP's Actuarial Reserve Liability (ARL).
- Criteria for investments by the trustee banks and whether the investments made deviated from the policy of prudence and conservatism, especially projects that are not publicly-listed.

COPW does not object to SEC granting CAP a business permit but ONLY to sell fixed or close-ended educational plans when CAP provides fresh capital to cover its trust fund deficiency.

The permit should come with appropriate guidelines on disbursements and control so that the trust funds will be invested only in publicly-listed securities and those with Triple AAA rating.



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Chairman

er, waded ashore—twice, the second time for the benefit of the newsreels—to tell the people of the Philippines in a radio broadcast that he had kept his promise.

At the same time, the US Navy with her allies took on what was left of the Imperial Japanese Navy in the biggest sea battle in history, the Battle of Leyte Gulf.

### Race against time

For MacArthur, it was a race against time to Manila and Luzon where thousands of American soldiers had been interned since the surrender of US and Filipino troops in May 1942.

University of the Philippines historian Ricardo Jose said the Americans surprised the Japanese when they attacked the city from the north on Feb. 3, 1945.

"The Japanese destroyed all six bridges that crossed the Pasig River, which divides the city north and south, and began torching the Chinese quarter and the old business district of Escolta," he said.

"Basically, the city had to be taken building by building, street by street. It was hand-to-hand in some quarters, tank and artillery bombardment in others."

### Connected by tunnels

"What made the fighting difficult for the Americans was the fact that many of the major buildings were connected by tunnels. So when the Americans thought they had cleared one building and moved on to the next the Japanese would pop up again and attack them from the rear," Jose said.

After 28 days, on March 3, the last Japanese resistance collapsed. Figures of military casualties vary enormously with estimates as high as 22,000 dead.

Jose said some 1,000 Americans died and 4,000 were wounded, with more than 8,000 Japanese dead. "Most of the garrison was wiped out in the fighting," he said.

### No white flag surrender

"There was no white flag surrender. The fighting just stopped when the last pocket of resistance had been cleared. Thousands of Japanese civilians that were brought in to run the country were taken prisoner along with Japanese troops who had surrendered."

"As for Manila, it was in ruins," he said.

Much of the damage was caused by the US bombardment, Jose Ma. Bonifacio Escoda says in his book, "Warsaw of Asia: The Rape of Manila."

"Not all the buildings were destroyed by the Japanese and not all the massacres were perpetrated by them. Much destruction and many deaths were caused by American bombing from the air and shelling by artillery."

Escoda says Filipinos were often mistaken for Japanese and were shot by American troops or strafed and bombed by their pilots.

Augusto Dariana of the National Historical Institute said much of the blame for what happened in Manila was placed on Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, commander of the Japanese forces in the Philippines.

"Yamashita had pulled out of Manila in December 1944 well before the massacre began," he told AFP.

"He left strict orders that the city be spared and for all troops to leave Manila, saying it could not be defended."

### Real butcher of Manila

"The real butcher of Manila was Admiral Sanji Iwabuchi of the Imperial Japanese Manila Naval Defense Force who disobeyed Yamashita's orders and decided to fight to the bitter end. He was killed in the battle."

Yamashita was executed in February 1946 following a trial in which he was accused of "violating the laws of war for failing to control his troops."

"There is a lot of conflicting views of what happened in the lead up to the Battle for Manila. It is true Yamashita had withdrawn to northern Luzon ahead of the American troops," Jose said.

### No intention of leaving

"But it is clear from the records the Japanese had no intention of leaving Manila and had dug in for a long fight fortifying the city and its approaches. Most of these troops were under the command of Admiral Iwabuchi."

Legarda said the rape of Manila was committed by a desperate Japanese army staring defeat in the face.

"The killings took many forms. Sometimes they shot civilians or bayoneted them to death. Some were beheaded. Sometimes families or groups were herded into buildings and blasted with hand grenades."

"Women were raped and sliced with bayonets from groin to throat and left to bleed to death in the hot sun."

"Children were seized by the legs and had their heads bashed against the wall. Babies were tossed into the air and caught on bayonets. Unborn fetuses were gouged out with bayonets from pregnant women."

### Lucky survivors

Although his immediate family were among the lucky survivors, Legarda said one of his uncles and a cousin were beheaded by the Japanese.

Like many who survived, Legarda has written extensively about his experiences growing up during the occupation of Manila and its subsequent



# 'One of WWII's greatest tragedies'

From page A2

destruction.

In his book, "Occupation 42," he includes eyewitness accounts to some of the atrocities that took place.

One was of Hungarian ballet star Paul Szilard, who described how from his hospital bed he heard a strange "squelching" sound coming up from the street.

"To his horror he found it was the sound of bodies being run over by Japanese vehicles," Legarda said.

Edgar Krohn was just 16 when the battle for Manila began.

"I guess we were luckier than most. Our family remained together but others were torn apart in the chaos that followed," he recalls.

## Few privileges

Born in Manila of German parents, Krohn said: "Despite the alliance between Germany and Japan, we were granted few privileges. The Japanese didn't like anyone who was not Japanese."

"I remember seeing one man, his stomach sliced open by a piece of shrapnel, sitting down in the street trying to put his intestines back."

"You tried to survive one day at a time. You dodged the bullets and hoped the building you were seeking refuge in was not bombed."

## Terrible atrocities

"Terrible atrocities took place all over the city."

"I will never forget one night in the building opposite, there was a woman screaming. The terror in that scream has never left me. It was horrible."

"We were told the woman was being repeatedly gang-raped by Japanese soldiers."

"Next morning her body was thrown out onto the street."

Krohn said a dispute between his father and a landlord probably saved his family.

"On Feb. 10, 1945, some 200 to 300 Filipinos, including some Germans and Spanish, had gone to the German Club on San Luis Street in Manila's Ermita district. They had gone there because they thought it was safe."

"Some sought shelter in an air raid shelter under the club while others waited inside."

Krohn's family stored their possessions at the club but that afternoon had gone to visit an old apartment that had been ransacked to see if anything was left.

"About noon, a platoon of Japanese marines cordoned

off the club premises and started killing everyone in sight."

"They murdered people inside the club, including Germans, and fired their weapons into the air raid shelter. Then they poured petrol into the shelter and set it alight."

"Those who tried to escape were gunned down... only 10 survived the massacre," he says.

Today, in the old walled city of Intramuros, between the Manila Cathedral and San Agustin Church, a bronze sculpture mounted on a black granite slab by artist Peter de Guzman stands in memory of those who perished in the city.

It is a stark monument full of painful imagery. At its center is a woman carrying a dead infant representing the Philip-

pin, the child being a symbol of lost hope.

A female figure next to her depicts a rape victim. The figure of a man shows despair and confusion. At the woman's feet are the bodies of young boys symbolizing the country's lost youth.

But for many young Filipinos today, the events that took place in Manila 60 years ago have little significance or impact on their lives.

Every day hundreds of young Filipinos queue outside the Japanese Embassy in Manila for visas to work in Japan. But for older residents, like Krohn, the nightmare has never left them.

"You can never forget what it was like," he says. "You can't erase it from your memory." AFP



SMOKE billows over parts of Manila from fires set by the battles between US and Japanese forces at the close of World War II. In the end, over 100,000 civilians died and the city known as the Pearl of the Orient was reduced to rubble.

APRIL 1945. KROHN COLLECTION

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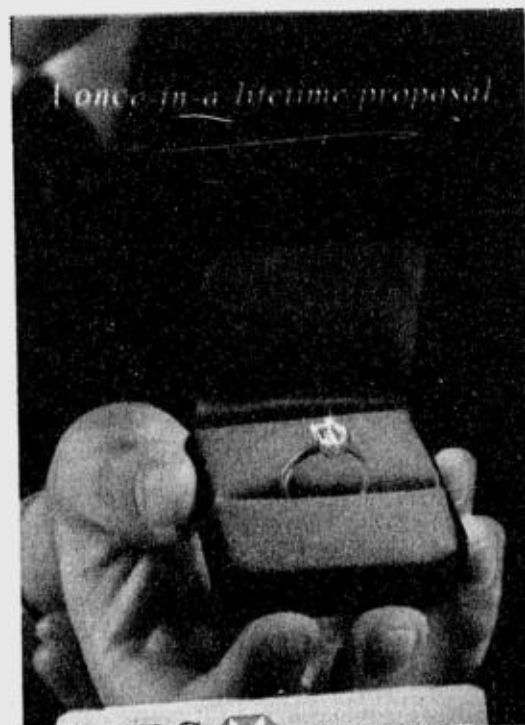
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# Ombudsman clears GMA, others in jailing of kids

By Nelson F. Flores

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has absolved President Macapagal-Arroyo and three other officials from any liability in the nationwide practice of jailing children together with hardened criminals.

In an 11-page order dated June 21, the Office of the Ombudsman, through Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez, junked the class suit filed against Ms Arroyo, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao.

The suit was filed on Dec. 10, 2003 by five children who were made to join adult prisoners in

various Central Police District Office-controlled jails in Quezon City before a local court ordered their turnover to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

Fernandez, in dismissing the suit, said the President and the other officials were far removed from the abuses committed against the child prisoners and could not have been aware of the violations committed by the PNP against the children. He also brushed aside as "speculative" the children's complaint that their suffering during incarceration with adult prisoners amounted to "undue injury" which is penalized under the anti-graft law.

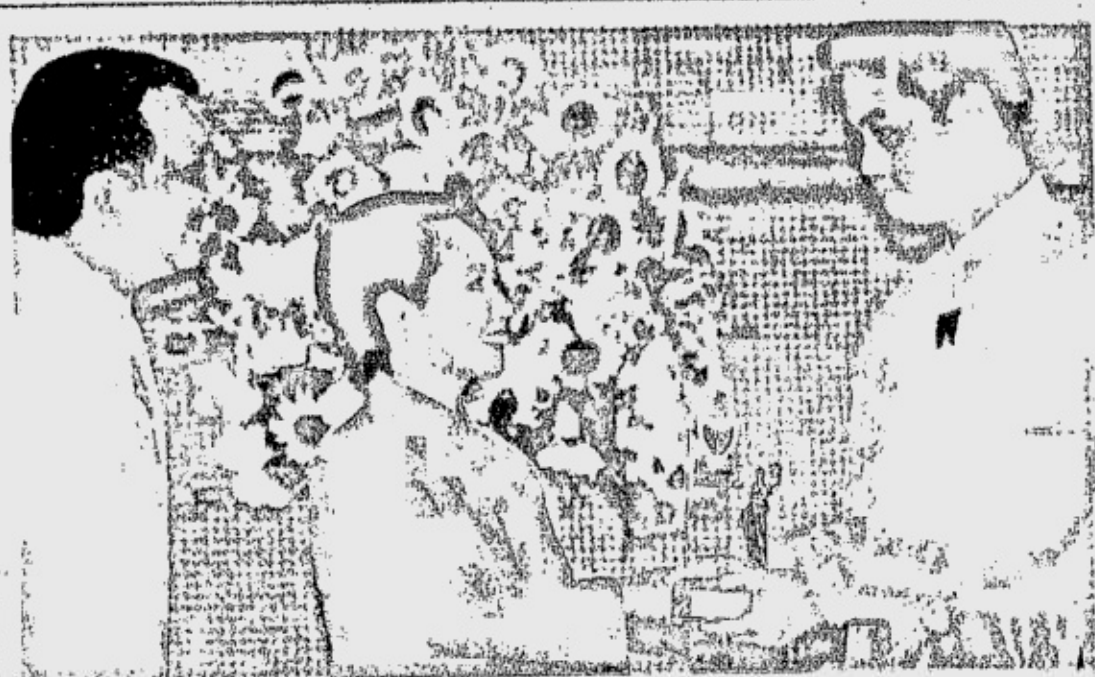
Lawyer Perfecto Caparas, who

represented the children, said the Ombudsman's order would set off more abuses on child prisoners.

He said the President's "acquiescence to and criminal neglect" in stopping the practice made her liable for prosecution under the provisions of Republic Act No. 3019 (the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act).

Citing statistics from the Public Attorney's Office and Sen. Francis Pangilinan, Caparas said between 36 and 54 children, including girls and those with mental disabilities, were thrown in with adult prisoners every single day in police jails throughout the country.

The CNN news network last week featured a damaging report on child-prisoners in the Philippines.



## INQUIRER REPORTER LAUDED

President Macapagal-Arroyo hands over the VACC Reporter of the Year trophy to the INQUIRER's Christian V. Esguerra. Esguerra was cited during the 7th anniversary celebration of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption headed by its chair Dante Jimenez (left) at Malacañang. EDWIN BACASMAS

## Cops to MILF: Provide info on bombers

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE yesterday urged the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front to share any information it may have that could lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of last week's twin bombings in Zamboanga City.

The police, however, insisted they had arrested the right suspects in the bomb attacks.

"If they have good information to contribute to the investigation, we would welcome it," said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

"It would also be good if their information is supported by evidence," he said.

The MILF had expressed doubts that the three bombing suspects now in police custody were members of the Abu Sayyaf, an extremist group with links to the Indonesia-based regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, had insisted that Adzmar Abduraop, 33; Angon Asmari, 32, and Ibnuyatim Salangin, 31, were not on the list of terrorists submitted to the government.

"We believe in the operations conducted by our men. We'll let the courts decide on the merits of the case," Bataoil said.

Witnesses pointed to the three as the ones who placed a bomb in a parked vehicle in the city.

Yesterday, Bataoil said there had been no definite report from the field about the true identities of the detained suspects in the blasts.

"But there is also no report that they have been disowned by the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, head of the PNP-Intelligence Group, earlier told the INQUIRER that the Zamboanga bombings were meant to divert the authorities' attention away from pursuing Abu Sayyaf leader Khadafy Janjalani, who is believed to be hiding in the Liguasan Marsh in Maguindanao.

"[Janjalani] thought it would distract government troops from pursuing him," Rafanan said. "He was wrong."

## NLE bans trucks that are too heavy

STARTING Aug. 16, overloaded trucks and trailers will no longer be allowed on the North Luzon Expressway, Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) announced yesterday.

MNTC said patrol officers will strictly implement the ban on overloaded trucks and trailers in compliance with Republic Act No. 8794, also known as the Motor Vehicles Users Charge (MVUC) law.

"We are heeding the call of several sectors to make the expressway safe for all motorists," said Raul Ignacio, MNTC assistant vice president for operations and maintenance.

Ignacio said trucks will be weighed and if found to exceed the prescribed limits, the trucks will have to leave the expressway.

"We are enforcing a national law that was approved in 2001. Our patrol officers have the necessary equipment—portable scales—to check trucks for overloading," he said.

Under RA 8794 or the MVUC law, overloaded trucks and trailers will be fined an amount equivalent to 25 percent of the MVUC, or registration fee of the trucks.

The maximum allowable gross vehicle weight (GVW) for trucks and trailers is based on the maximum allowable axle load of 13,500 kg or 13.5 metric tons.

For six-wheeler trucks, the maximum allowable GVW is 16,880 kg; for 10-wheeler trucks, 27,250 kg; for 14-wheeler trucks, 29,700 kg; for 10-wheeler and 14-wheeler semi-trailer trucks, 30,380 kg; for 18-wheeler semi-trailer trucks, 37,800 kg; for 14-wheeler and 18-wheeler trailer trucks, 30,378 kg; 18-wheeler trailer trucks, 36,900 kg and 37,800 kg; and 22-wheeler trailer trucks, 41,000 kg.

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## Gov't sets steps to ease oil crisis

By Christine O. Avendaño

FACED with threats of a severe energy crisis, President Macapagal-Arroyo and her advisers last night announced a series of measures to help the country cope with the emergency.

The measures include:

- Implementation of an organized bus route. This would mean reducing to three the number of round trips to be made by each bus in Metro Manila.
- Starting Sept. 1, oil-based power plants in Luzon will not be used until December. Since August, the National Power Corp. had reduced the use of oil-based power plants in Luzon as it was the rainy season, and instead made more use of the geothermal plants in Leyte and Malampaya.
- Intensified use of other types of fuel like bio-diesel, ethanol, compressed natural gas and LPG.
- Greater use of natural light over artificial light.
- Reduction by all government agencies of electric and oil consumption by 10 percent. Use of commercial flights, instead of private planes and watercraft, in travels.
- Sale of government vehicles consuming gas heavily and replacing them with more efficient vehicles.
- Priority would be given to franchises with vehicles using alternative, indigenous and renewable fuels.
- Deployment of more rolling stores selling cheap rice.

## GMA advised ...

From page A1

vestors Service—downgraded their credit outlook on the Philippines to negative from stable partly because of the freeze order on the VAT law.

A credit downgrade raises the cost of borrowing funds abroad.

### Suicidal

Salceda said that while economic managers were "keenly sensitive to the market signals of a suspension" of the VAT law, "it would be fiscal folly, nay suicidal, to insist on its implementation at this point even if there were no political crisis."

The President is facing a widespread clamor for her removal from office over allegations of poll fraud. Impeachment complaints have been filed against her in the House of Representatives.

A top investment analyst in a foreign bank operating in the country last week said that record crude prices were a bigger threat to Ms Arroyo's survival than the political scandals she was facing.

The VAT law covers previously exempted products and services such as petroleum products, electricity, coal, natural gas and other indigenous fuels, sea and air travel, and medical and legal services.

It also covers cotton, cotton seeds and non-food agricultural products, works of art, literary works and musical compositions, and increases the corporate income tax from 32 percent to 35 percent.

"Even for one who is the most rabid fiscal hawk in government, I can't be oblivious to the oil price spike and its impact on consumer welfare and the general economy," Salceda said.

The lawmaker said that at \$67 (per barrel of crude oil) plus VAT, "the inherent contractionary impulses would be so magnified as to overwhelm most of its beneficial impact."

### Low deficit

Salceda explained that doing away with the VAT this year was feasible.

He explained that the projected deficit for the first half of the year was P97 billion, but the government had trimmed it down to P67 billion.

"A P30 billion *baon* (buffer from the) first half deficit (in lieu of) the P28 billion proceeds from VAT law in 2005, this would allow us to meet targets," said Salceda.

He was referring to the projected P28 billion in revenue to be generated this year alone with the inclusion of the power and oil sectors in the VAT net.

"Imposing the oil and power VAT at this point would do more harm than good and even upset our fiscal goals as it would stoke consumer pessimism," he said.

Even if the VAT law were imposed, the government would not get the projected revenue because of its contractionary effect on the economy, Salceda said. "At a certain point, consumers do cope (with rising prices). So there will be less spending."

To lessen borrowings, Salceda said the administration was selling assets like Philippine National Bank and postponing projects with no automatic loan backing.

"We would focus on overseas development assistance utilization to afford support to aggregate demand. It's also a good time to rebuild the Malampaya stake and award exploration contracts," he said.

# Bishops say impeach bid must go on ...

From page A1

spokesperson of Ms Arroyo in the impeachment case, yesterday said that all the impeachment complaints should be dismissed because they were "defective."

An amended impeachment complaint has been signed by 41 members of the House of Representatives, short of the 79 votes or one-third of the 236-member chamber, to send the case to the Senate for trial. The opposition claimed that it had gained 10 more votes but was not revealing the names just yet.

### Aquino, Drilon in Iloilo

Former President Corason Aquino, who was in Iloilo City Thursday, also called for the continuation of the impeachment proceedings.

"I hope that they will give an opportunity for all of us Filipinos to know the truth. And it would appear that it will be through the impeachment proceedings that we will be able to arrive at the truth," she said.

Aquino, who last month asked Ms Arroyo to step down from office, said the proceedings should be open to the public and not only to the committee members.

She said she was standing by her earlier call for the President to resign. If Ms Arroyo's resignation was not possible, then Aquino said she would opt for the impeachment process.

"We're hoping there will be no impediment to the impeachment proceedings because the President herself had said that she preferred the impeachment proceedings to the resignation that we were asking for," she said.

The former President said the impediments included the need to gather the support of at least 79 members of the House for the impeachment complaint to prosper.

She also pointed to the move to limit the number of participants in the deliberations of the committee on justice.

Asked if she would be willing to reconcile with Ms Arroyo, Aquino said it should be "reconciliation based on justice."

### Surprise visit

Aquino, along with Senate President Franklin Drilon, paid Lagdameo a surprise visit on Thursday at the prelate's office. They were accompanied by Drilon's wife Mila, resigned Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene Villa and Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr.

Drilon, who also asked Ms Arroyo to step down, and Aquino said they greeted Lagdameo on the 25th anniversary of his ordination as a bishop.

Reporters were not allowed to cover the unannounced meeting. Aides accompanying Aquino and Drilon at first asked photographers and reporters not to take pictures and conduct interviews.

Lagdameo, who described the meeting as a "very friendly visit," said he was surprised when he was informed that the former President would be coming.

He said his visitors did not ask him to support calls for the President to resign.

The bishop pointed out that the voluntary resignation of the President was among the options covered by the CBCP statement on resolving the political crisis.

### Abad in Dumaguete

In Dumaguete City, resigned Education Secretary Florencio Abad yesterday warned against the danger posed by the administration-dominated House throwing out the impeachment complaint because of a technicality.

Abad, one of the 10 officials in the Arroyo Cabinet who resigned on July 8, said at a forum organized by the Negros Oriental Network of NGOs (Negonet) that the impeachment process should be given due course to bring out the truth.

"My concern is if (the impeachment complaint) is thrown out on a technicality, then you have closed a constitutional option. That is, to me, dangerous," Abad said.

"The President has already closed the resignation option. What remains is either 'people power' or the other anti-constitutional alternatives peddled by some retired generals," he said.

He said that as a member of the Liberal Party, which had called on Ms Arroyo to step down, he was encouraging party members in the House to sign the amended impeachment complaint. He said there were still 15 undecided LP members in the House.

### 10 impeachment complaints

In a phone interview, Macalintal said there were actually 10 impeachment complaints filed and not three as reported in media.

He said lawyer Oliver Lozano first filed a complaint but amended it seven times, and Lozano later joined another amended complaint this time endorsed by 29 members of the House. Then there's the complaint filed by lawyer Jose Lopez, according to Macalintal.

He said none of these would be able to pass the first test in the impeachment process—whether a complaint which was sufficient in form.

He noted that none of these complaints were properly verified in compliance with the impeachment rules.

"At the time of filing (of the complaint), it must be sworn and subscribed to before the secretary general of the House, but all the complaints were sworn and subscribed to before a notary public," Macalintal said.

"So all of these appear to be defective and should be dismissed because they did not comply with the rules on impeachment," he said.

With a report from Romy A. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

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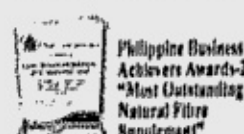
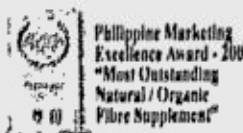
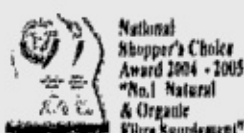


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# Senga takes over as GMA's 8th military chief of staff

From page A1

can unite the Armed Forces."

Taking over as Army chief from Senga on Wednesday is Maj. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., chief of the Armed Forces' Special Operations Command.

Esperon is one of several generals whose names cropped up in the "Hello Garci" wiretaps which the opposition says is evidence Ms Arroyo rigged the May 2004 election.

On the eve of the turnover of military command, a group calling itself the Young Officers Union new generation (YOUng) issued a statement

warning that Esperon's promotion would "further widen the crack of horizontal division and mistrust" and threatening "to resolve the issue within our level, the rank and file and the sovereign people."

The statement, dated Aug. 14, was faxed to the INQUIRER. It was signed by Lt. Col. Arsenio Alcantara, a fictitious name. Alcantara described himself as the spokesperson of the YOUng central command.

## Bogus group

Asked for comment, Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP spokesperson, said: "We won't respond to their

statement. They're bogus. There is no such group."

Yesterday's statement was YOUng's third since it emerged last month to denounce supposed ills under the Arroyo administration and vowed to bring her down.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security, confirmed in an interview with the INQUIRER the existence of the group. Biazon said YOUng was composed of active military officers with ties to its predecessor, the YOU.

The YOU provided the backbone of then Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Hon-

osan's attempted coup in 1989, which Biazon, then the Armed Forces chief of staff, quelled. Around 4,000 soldiers involved in the coup were subsequently given amnesty.

"They share the same ideals," said Biazon, quoting military contacts. He said it was "very, very possible" that the two groups were connected.

In early July, Biazon disclosed that young officers identified with YOU had threatened to go on mass leave to protest the reported involvement of military generals in electoral fraud and their impending promotion.

The accusation was triggered by revelations of wiretapped telephone conversations between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, which the opposition said showed Ms Arroyo fixed the balloting. Ms Arroyo has adamantly denied manipulating the vote.

Biazon said he managed to persuade the officers to stay on and to relay their concerns to the President and General Abu. Biazon said Abu promised him he would conduct an investigation "discreetly."

## Inquiry

It was only on July 20 that Abu announced that he had ordered an inquiry after Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, had assailed, shortly after his retirement as AFP Northern Luzon commander, the military leadership for not investigating those involved in last year's alleged election cheating.

But the six-member fact-finding board headed by Vice Adm. Mateo Mayuga skirted the issue of whether there was cheating in last year's elections.

Mayuga said the panel would look at any "unprofessional conduct" of any officers during the elections.

The probe also did not focus on the four generals and other officers mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tape, but on all officers and enlisted men involved in the elections.

Mayuga did not set a deadline for their findings.

Aside from Esperon, the officials mentioned in the audio recording were Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacoen, Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and retired Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, who now heads an antimuggling task force.

## Mockery

Calling it a "mockery and an insult" to professional officers, the YOUng said Esperon's appointment smacked of politicking.

"Despite his involvement in last year's massive election fraud, he was not investigated, relieved nor suspended. Worse, the commander in chief even rewarded him with a position most sought by Army men," the group said.

"Is this the kind of professionalism the AFP would like to exemplify to its juniors? Are the Army people that helpless, pathetic and gullible to be easily fooled?" the group said.

The YOUng lamented that while military officials implicated in the Garci tapes were not even given a slap on the wrist, ordinary soldiers were routinely "admonished, relieved and suspended" when they protested.

It cited as examples the cases of Army Col. Arturo Ortiz and Col. Ricardo Morales. Ortiz had aggressively protested the awarding of the Medal of Valor to Army Lt. Col. Noel Buan and S/Sgt. Leopoldo Diokno and resigned from the 15-man Medal of Valor Board. He said the medal had been "prostituted" and resigned as chief of the AFP Joint Operations Center on June 10.

Morales was sacked as commander of the 404th Infantry Brigade based in Mawab, Davao del Norte, for criticizing the controversial resort project for the military on the tourist-famous island of Boracay.

## Add insult to injury

"The AFP this coming Aug. 17 will once more mock and add insult to injury to the very foundation of military professionalism if the appointment of General Esperon as the new Army chief is not rescinded," the YOUng said.

"His appointment will be a clear manifestation of the existence of a political mafia within the Armed Forces and will further erode the rank and file's dwindling trust (in) the military leadership," it said.

The group said it would "gladly shut our mouths and stay on the line" if the military leadership responded to questions on the alleged irregularities committed by officials.

"Allowing them to go unpunished and be rewarded for their foolishness will eventually force us to resolve the issue within our level, the rank and file and the sovereign people, whose sentiments are loudly reflected in recent surveys."

"Once again, we appeal to all patriotic soldiers to be more vigilant against Malacañang and its predators and aristocrat cheaters who are trying to hold private strings on us and destroy our professionalism. We should not allow them to perpetuate themselves in power."

# Next White House chef may be Fil-Am woman

From page A1

White House kitchen, the US First Lady has interviewed a handful of candidates for the position but has yet to choose one.

And because these are closed auditions with a few select guests at the tables, the search has become part of Washington's favorite parlor game—laying bets on the Bushes' choice for the prominent job.

Two candidates—a Filipino-American cook already in the White House kitchen and a chef from Texas—seem to be on everyone's lists.

Cristeta Comerford, a naturalized citizen from the Philippines, has been an assistant chef at the White House since 1996. Comerford would be the first woman and the first member of a minority group to be the executive chef.

Chris Ward is the chef at Mercury Grill, a restaurant in Dallas that serves rack of veal as well as crab meat enchiladas. A self-proclaimed conservative who supports the administration, Ward was summoned to the White House last month to prepare a second tasting for the Bushes.

The top White House chef does a lot of cooking just for the first family. Ms Bush has said she wants someone who cooks American food, but also someone who can make a mean enchilada as well as the more complex interior Mexican food that she prefers like mole.

And the chef had better know how to make President George W. Bush's favorite cheeseburgers.

Whomever the Bushes choose "may not be the best chef they can possibly find," said Richard Hamilton, another candidate, "but the one with whom they are most comfortable."

The next chef knows that the pay will not match the prestige of the position. Whoever is chosen for the job will become essentially a private chef with the occasional state dinner thrown in, and for a salary of \$80,000 to \$100,000. *New York Times News Service*

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# For once bishop agrees with GMA: 'Jueteng' stopped

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE GOOD news, according to Archbishop Oscar Cruz and one of his witnesses, is that President Macapagal-Arroyo seems to be telling the truth: "Jueteng" operations are now under control, if not "almost zero."

The bad news is: Several other forms of illegal gambling have taken over and jueteng operators themselves are racing to stage a major comeback, Cruz and witness Wilfredo "Boy" Mayor told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"There are still a good number of illegal numbers games going on in certain places," the bishop said in a statement faxed to the INQUIRER. "Masiao, last two, loteng, letreng, bookies and the like are well and alive in some parts of the islands."

Even the government-sanctioned EZ2 game is allegedly being used as a smokescreen for jueteng.

"Bet collectors carry EZ2 tickets but underneath are the lists for jueteng bets," the bishop said.

Cruz's Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng has a network of supporters and informants in at least 62 chapters nationwide.

Mayor, a confessed former jueteng operator in Bicol, confirmed that the game had indeed been curbed. Quoting information from his former cohorts in the field, he said jueteng operations had been reduced by 90 percent all over the country.

But the President, accused of using jueteng money to buy the 2004 elections, should not be given credit for that, Mayor said.

"It was Archbishop Cruz and his crusade—not President Arroyo—who stopped jueteng in most parts of the country," he said. "She had nothing to do with it."

The INQUIRER sought Cruz and Mayor's reaction after the

President announced Friday that jueteng operations were now "almost zero."

Mayor said jueteng operators and their people had been facing tough times since the bishop came out in April.

Things turned from bad to worse when Cruz began presenting witnesses in the Senate jueteng investigation, he said.

Mayor said experience showed jueteng often disappeared whenever focus was placed on it in the media.

"Wait till the issue subsides," he said. "Operations will sprout like mushrooms."

Cruz said Ms Arroyo's pronouncement showed that she could indeed stop jueteng if she

wanted to.

"Lest people misunderstood, it is not the choice of the administration to stop or not to stop something illegal," Cruz

said. "Eradicating jueteng and other illegal numbers games is but the obligation of government and the rightful expectation of the governed."

Mayor said he was expecting jueteng operations to resume soon, following the suspension, and possible termination, of the Senate inquiry.



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## Dengue vaccine needed

DESPITE the government's aggressive measures to control the spread of dengue and minimize deaths, the best weapon would still be a vaccine against the mosquito-borne disease, according to a top health official.

But, said Dr. Eric Tayag, chief epidemiologist of the Department of Health, the government neither has the money nor the technology to develop such a vaccine.

"In the near future, an effective vaccine would dramatically change the dengue landscape," Tayag told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Until then, elimination of mosquito breeding sites and the prompt treatment [of patients] offer the best options for control."

Tayag said the country was still waiting for the results of Thailand-based research being conducted by a multinational company.

He said experts were having difficulty coming up with a vaccine that could deal with all four strains of dengue.

Also, the Thailand-based vaccine might not work effectively in the Philippines, he said.

"The strain in our country has a different lineage from [that in] Thailand," Tayag explained. "So it raises the question—if it works in Thailand, will it work in our country?"

Christian V. Esguerra



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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## Massive hunt launched for Sri Lanka assassins

COLOMBO—More than 1,000 police and troops scoured Colombo on Sunday for one or more snipers, suspected to be Tamil Tiger rebels, who gunned down Sri Lanka's foreign minister and rekindled fears of a return to civil war.

Soldiers checked cars entering or leaving Colombo after the government declared a state of emergency as a precautionary measure to allow mass troop movements.

But newspapers in Colombo, critical of the reaction by Lakshman Kadirgamar's security detail in the immediate aftermath of the assassination, said the gunmen could be anywhere.

"The manner in which Kadirgamar was killed was a disgrace to any security operation," The Sunday Island said in a commentary.

The area around Kadirgamar's

home was not sealed off quickly after he was shot several times from a house across the street as he emerged from his swimming pool on Friday night, giving the gunmen plenty of time to escape, newspapers said.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which usually denied responsibility for attacks in Colombo before a ceasefire in the two decades old civil war was agreed in 2002, said it was not involved in the assassination.

Few in Colombo appeared to believe the Tigers, who have said repeatedly the ceasefire could collapse because of a rash of killings in the restive east that the government and rebels blame on the other.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga's government, which declared the ceasefire still intact, said the denial was hard to swallow.

"Twelve people have been arrested during yesterday's cordon and search operation and it is not specifically connected to this murder," military spokesperson Brig. Daya Ratnayake said.

"They were taken on suspicion."

Investigators found cartridge casings from a sniper rifle, a grenade launcher and the remains of food in the house from which Kadirgamar was shot in Colombo's elegant diplomatic quarter.

They say the gunmen hid upstairs in the house and shot Kadirgamar four times; twice in the head, once in the throat and once in chest. A Tamil couple who own the property are under house arrest for questioning, but have not been charged.

The government is preparing a state funeral on Monday for the slain 73-year-old Oxford-educated minister. Shops and cinemas will close in a mark of respect.

Kadirgamar had long been at the top of the Tigers' hit list for campaigning to have them labeled as a terrorist group by the United States and Britain. Because he was a Tamil, many hardliners called him a traitor.

There are no signs yet of a return to a war in which more than 64,000 people were killed and swathes of the north and east ravaged, but the killing has plunged the island's peace process into its worse crisis since the truce was agreed. *Reuters*



YOUTHS wave a Palestinian flag near the wall of the Israeli settlement of Neve Dekalim, background, in the outskirts of the southern Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis, during a march to celebrate the upcoming Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip Aug. 13. Israel will dismantle 21 settlements from Gaza along with four in the West Bank starting Aug. 17. *AP*

## US Lutherans assail Israel for building security barrier

WASHINGTON—A five-million-strong US church has rebuked Israel for building a protective barrier along the West Bank, becoming the second major US Protestant denomination to reject policies implemented by the Jewish state.

The resolution titled "Peace Not Wall" was adopted Saturday on a 668-269 vote by members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at their convention in Orlando, Florida, despite pleas from Jews to refrain from the move.

The document that eschews overt condemnation of either side in the conflict urges both Israel and the Palestinians to renew their commitments "to self-determination and security."

It reaffirms the church's support for UN Security Council resolutions that call for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied as a result of the 1967 war while upholding the right of every state in the Middle East "to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries."

But the document also fully endorses findings by Munib Younan, the church's bishop in Jordan and Israel, who lamented that the security barrier was splitting his Jerusalem congregation into three sectors.

He said the wall had made it almost impossible for the congregation to meet, for children to get to their schools and for adults to reach their places of work.

"Our church believes in bridges, not walls; trust, not fear; dialogue for justice and peace, not more reason for division," Younan said in an emotional address. "The wall does not create peace, it breeds despair."

Unlike a measure recently adopted by the Presbyterian Church USA, a 2.4-million-member denomination, the resolution does not contain "a policy on divestment," church officials said.

On Aug. 5, the Presbyterian Church began its drive for divestment from companies whose practices it says support the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land or facilitate violence against civilians.

The first five companies targeted by the church include Caterpillar because it manufactures bulldozers used by Israel for demolishing Palestinian homes, Citigroup because some of its financial channels may have been used to pay families of Palestinian suicide bombers, and ITT Industries, a supplier of communications equipment for the Israeli military. *AFP*

## Airliner carrying 121 crashes in Greece

ATHENS—A Cypriot airliner carrying 121 people crashed north of Athens on Sunday after the pilot and a passenger reported cabin pressure problems moments before the plane was due to land.

"The pilot has turned blue," said a passenger said in a text message to his cousin, Greek television reported. "Cousin farewell, we're freezing," it said.

Greek TV station Alpha reported that the pilot had told air traffic controllers the Boeing 737 was experiencing air conditioning problems. Moments later, communications with the plane were lost.

Police and firefighters at the crash site said there were no immediate signs of survivors. Plane wreckage was scattered widely about the mountainous, uninhabited area, about 40 km north of Athens and dense black smoke billowed from several small fires.

"I saw many bodies scattered around, all of them wearing (oxygen) masks. The tail was cut off and the remaining parts of the plane rolled down a hillside about 500 meters from the tail," one witness said.

Television pictures showed planes dropping water over the wreckage site as rescue workers fanned out over the site searching for survivors.

Two Greek F-16 fighter jets were scrambled after the Helios Airways jet, en route from Larnaca in Cyprus to Prague via Athens, lost contact with the control tower at Athens international airport.

One of the F-16 pilots reported that he could not see the captain in the cockpit and his co-pilot appeared to be slumped in his seat, a Defense Ministry official said.

"I saw the plane coming. I knew it

was serious or that it was some kind of VIP because I saw the two fighter jets," said witness Dimitris Karezas, who owns a summer camp in the area.

"Two, three minutes later I heard a big bang," he said.

Greek police said there were no signs the plane had been hijacked.

Cypriot airport officials said flight HCY522 left Larnaca at 9 a.m. and lost contact at 10:30 a.m. The pilot appeared to have lost consciousness due to a loss in cabin pressure in the cockpit, Larnaca airport officials said on Cyprus state television CYBC.

A Greek police spokesperson said there were 115 passengers and six crew members on board, of which 59 and eight children were heading to Athens, with 48 continuing on to Prague. *Reuters*

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## Ex-N. Zealand PM David Lange dies

WELLINGTON—Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange, who led the country through a tumultuous period when it split with the United States over nuclear policy and battled France over the sinking of the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior, has died aged 63.

Lange was prime minister for five years from 1984, inheriting a country in economic trouble and presiding over a series of radical economic reforms which alienated many of his Labour Party's traditional blue-collar supporters.

He had suffered serious health problems for the past decade and had his right leg amputated below the knee last month following complications with diabetes.

In 1995 he underwent a quadruple heart bypass operation and in 2002 he was diagnosed with a rare incurable plasma disorder, amyloidosis, which causes a build-up of excess protein from bone marrow and damages the organs.

Lange's wit, debating skills and remarkable influence internationally and within the Labour Party were the hallmarks of his career.

After being elected to parliament in 1977, his rise to the top was meteoric. Within two years he was deputy leader and four years later he was at the helm of the party.

In 1984 he led Labour to victory in a snap election, ousting the National Party and Sir Robert Muldoon, to become New Zealand's youngest prime minister in the 20th century.

Within a year, Lange made a splash on the world stage. Adopting Labour's antinuclear stand as his own, Lange traveled to the United States and Britain to explain the policy.

His government's decision to ban nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships angered Washington and led to New Zealand's suspension from the regional security alliance ANZUS with the United States and Australia.

Lange's contribution to the Oxford University Union debate, where he successfully argued against US Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell "that nuclear weapons are morally indefensible," earned him an international reputation for his oratory skills.

Just a few months later Lange was again espousing the perils of nuclear weapons against world powers, after French agents bombed a Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior, in Auckland harbor before it could travel to Mururoa to protest at French nuclear testing. *AFP*



LANGE



# Malaysia to stick to policy of whipping illegals

KUALA LUMPUR—Despite increasingly congested detention centers, Malaysia will not deport illegal immigrants immediately, but will stick with its policy of sending them to trial and sentencing them to the lash, the home minister was quoted as saying on Sunday.

"If they are charged and then punished with whipping, they would think many times before running the risk of reentering the country," Home Minister Azmi Khalid was quoted as saying by the national news agency Bernama. More than 9,000 illegals, mostly Indonesians, are being held at

the centers throughout the country as they await their trials to start or be completed, according to Azmi.

"This is due to delays in the legal process," Azmi was quoted as saying by the Berita Minggu newspaper. "The cases drag on (sometimes for more than a year)

due to many postponements, whereas illegal immigrants are caught almost every day."

Azmi said congestion in detention centers will worsen as the government steps up the operation to round up illegals by empowering civilian volunteers—besides police and immi-

gration officers—to detain them.

Whipping was introduced as a punishment for illegal immigrants as part of a crackdown launched in March 2005.

Malaysian rights groups and lawyers have said that whipping, a holdover of British colonial days, is an excessive punishment

for nonviolent crimes.

About 1.5 million migrant workers, mostly Indonesians, work legally in Malaysia, mostly in menial jobs which are spurned by Malaysians. But hundreds of thousands more work illegally, prompting the government to take action. AP

## No challengers: S'pore president wins new term

SINGAPORE—Singapore President S.R. Nathan has won a fresh six-year term after election officials over the weekend disqualified all potential challengers, depriving voters of a chance to elect their head of state for the first time in 12 years.

The 81-year-old Nathan, a former diplomat, civil servant and domestic intelligence chief backed by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP), is now set to be proclaimed the winner on Wednesday, Nomination Day.

It was Nathan's second walkover victory since 1999, the result of strict requirements for presidential candidates in the city-state.

Businessman Andrew Kuan, who was seen as the most serious of three aspiring candidates, said Sunday he would leave the PAP after his disqualification.

The polls would have been held on Aug. 27 had Kuan been certified as eligible by the three-member Presidential Elections Committee.

"I think it's good for me to leave the PAP and be a normal Singaporean again," the 51-year-old Kuan, a PAP community leader who runs his own executive search company, told AFP.

"I don't think they will take me too kindly after what happened last week," Kuan said, referring to the controversy over his short-lived bid to challenge the party's choice as head of state.

The PAP has ruled Singapore since it became a republic 40 years ago and now holds all but



**NATHAN**

two of the 84 elected seats in parliament.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong came out in support of Nathan after Kuan broke party ranks to declare his bid.

Kuan was deemed unqualified despite having served as group chief financial officer of a state-linked developer.

He came under intense public scrutiny last week as his former employers, including industrial land developer JTC Corp., successively revealed unflattering accounts of his professional record. AFP

## 4 quizzed in Brazil bank heist

RIO DE JANEIRO—Police said Saturday they have questioned four people in connection with one of the biggest bank heists in history, the theft of \$71.6 million from a central bank office in northern Brazil.

Federal police said they questioned two owners of a company from which the robbers purchased about a dozen vehicles used in the operation, as well as the owner and the driver of a truck on which the vehicles were transported.

The truck was found Wednesday in the southeastern city of Belo Horizonte, 2,500 kilometers from Fortaleza, where the theft took place last weekend.

Police announced two arrests and the recovery of about five million reais (\$2.1 million) on Thursday.

Brazil's central bank meanwhile revised the amount of money missing to 164.8 million reais (\$71.6 million), from the 156 million (\$68 million) originally reported.

Authorities believe the robbery took place early Saturday. Since the theft was only discovered Monday, the robbers had a 48-hour lead on the authorities.

To reach the vault, the robbers—believed to number between 10 and 20 people—dug a tunnel from a fictitious gardening company in a house opposite the bank in Fortaleza's business district.

The tunnel was four meters below a main road and 80 meters long.

The thieves had to pierce the vault's one-meter-thick iron and cement floor, and there was no immediate sign of explosives used.

The tunnel, 28 inches wide, lined with plastic, and lit with electric lights, was believed to have taken at least three months to build, authorities said. AFP



**BEARDED GLORY**

The three top winners in the "Beard of the Alps meeting" (Alpenbart-Treffen) pose Aug. 13 in Brambuesch near Chur in the Swiss canton of Grisons, from left, Kurt Rohner from Switzerland, 3rd place, winner Geni Schumacher from Switzerland and Gerhard Schmittbauer from Germany, 2nd place. AP

## US scales down goals in Iraq

WASHINGTON—The administration of President George W. Bush is significantly lowering expectations of what can be achieved in Iraq, recognizing that the United States will have to settle for far less progress than originally envisioned, The Washington Post reported Sunday.

Citing unnamed officials in Washington and Baghdad, the newspaper said Washington no longer expected to see a model new democracy, a self-supporting oil industry or a society, in which the majority of people are free from serious security or economic challenges.

"What we expected to achieve was never realistic given the timetable or what unfolded on the ground," the report quotes one senior official as saying. "We are in a process of absorbing the factors of the situation we're in and shedding the unreality that dominated at the beginning."

The debate over a new Iraqi constitution has particularly driven home

the gap between the original US goals and the realities almost 28 months after the US-led invasion of the country, The Post said.

The United States initially planned to build Iraq as a secular and modern country that honors human rights and unites disparate ethnic and religious communities.

But the paper said the document on which Iraq's future will be built will require laws to be compliant with Islam.

Kurds and Shiites are expecting de facto long-term political privileges. And women's rights will not be as firmly entrenched as Washington has tried to insist, the report said.

"We set out to establish a democracy, but we're slowly realizing we will have some form of Islamic republic," The Post quotes another US official as saying.

According to the paper, US officials now acknowledge that they misread the strength of the sentiment among Kurds and Shiites to create a special status for their communities. AFP

## Australia funds search for warship

SYDNEY—The Australian government will help fund a search for the wreck of the warship HMAS Sydney, which was sunk in a mysterious battle in 1941 with the loss of all 645 crew on board, Prime Minister John Howard said Sunday.

The sinking of the Sydney, a state-of-the-art cruiser, was Australia's single worst naval disaster and the circumstances surrounding its loss to the Kormoran, a German merchant ship converted into an auxiliary cruiser, have never been fully explained.

Howard said there was a good chance the Sydney's final resting place off the West Australian coast could be located and one of the enduring mysteries of World War II solved.

"The finding of the HMAS Sydney II would close a significant chapter in Australia's wartime history and bring a long awaited closure to the suffering of the families, as well as

allowing the proper recognition of the sacrifice made by the 645 crew," he said.

The Sydney sank on Nov. 19, 1941 off the northwest coast of Australia after an engagement with the Kormoran, which was also hit in the encounter. The German ship was abandoned and scuttled, with the loss of some 80 men from its crew of 397.

The only accounts of the battle are from the German survivors, who were interned in Australia until the end of the war. They reported that the Australian ship was last seen, heavily on fire and down by the bows, as a burning glow on the horizon.

The Royal Australian Navy says on its website that what took place aboard the Sydney is pure conjecture, but it is likely the Kormoran feigned innocence as a merchant ship until opening fire with all armaments as the Sydney approached. AFP

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## Moving forward

THE "BLUEPRINT for a Viable Philippines" is not a perfect document; it certainly wasn't intended to be. What it is is a work in progress: "It merely puts forward in broad strokes the basis of what the proponents perceive to be the primary steps that can be taken for the country to survive, to enable the citizenry to pull themselves out of the deep rut they are now in."

As we can see, even its language can be out-of-breath at times. But, at least, it is a positive contribution to the on-again, off-again public dialogue on reforming the system. The product of many roundtable discussions, the Blueprint was written by several eminent members of the University of the Philippines community.

It prescribes strong medicine; that is one of its strengths. For instance, it calls the policy of allotting "a growing portion" of the budget to pay for principal and interest of the country's debt stock "slow suicide" and "immoral." It recommends a "comprehensive debt audit" to uncover the "hidden history of our indebtedness" and a renegotiation of our official debt, "with the end in view of securing a minimum 5-year relief from interest payments."

But the Blueprint also and essentially prescribes the same kind of medicine for the country's many problems: that is one of its weaknesses. Many of its recommendations assume or call outright for active government intervention. Symptomatic of this weakness is its placebo of a recommendation for what it says is ailing Philippine mass media: It calls for a Board of Governors for Media "that will function as media's own watchdog and regulatory body."

Surely, the solution to some of our problems does not involve a strong (or in the Blueprint's Nietzschean language, "willful") state; sometimes, we need less government, not more. (That, in fact, may be the only way for other parts of the private sector to grow in maturity.)

But taken altogether, the Blueprint allows us to look beyond the sordid scandals that consume us, to an alternative future bright with the promise of possibilities.

That is a quality lacking in the Ramos-De Venecia proposals for Charter change. Not because the ideas themselves have no merit, but because the ideas have come to be identified with the men behind them. And because the ideas have been sold as a "graceful exit" for the President. That is a pity. We believe, for instance, that the opportunities a parliamentary system provides for a non-disruptive change of government, through say a vote of no confidence, deserve a more thorough discussion.

Another way for the country to move forward is through the (admittedly) increasingly more unpopular idea of a Truth Commission. If there is anything that Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, a close Arroyo ally, has proven, with his hiring of an American forensic expert and the ensuing controversy that surrounded his presentation on Friday, it is the need for a neutral analysis of the Hello Garci tapes.

We think it strange that an opposition that is willing to accept new witnesses who have surfaced after it filed its amended impeachment complaint is now saying that it is too late for Defensor to offer an analysis of the tapes. If anything, pro-impeachment politicians should thank Defensor, for putting the spotlight back on the tapes. As we've said before: It's the tapes, stupid. Whatever its limitations, however, Defensor's expert analysis cannot be taken at face value.

But a Truth Commission can conduct an investigation that all parties can accept. It need not be an expensive superfluity; we believe that even a short-term Commission with, say, Christian Monsod, Haydee Yorac and Harriet Demetriou as members, can be credible, competent—and decisive. We believe—because we must—in the power of good men and women to rise above even the most unpromising circumstances.

Not least, the participation of more political movements, like Kapatiran, in the public discourse can also help provide a way forward. Veteran political operators may look askance at such groups, which place ethical considerations ahead of practical concerns. Such groups certainly look like apolitical fish out of very political water. But that may be the point. We need more Filipinos who, if they had to choose, would choose faithfulness to their principles over unprincipled success.



## What's wrong with Mike Defensor?

### As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Teresita Ang See. Tiongco accused the latter of staging the kidnapping of Chinoys.

Tiongco had also presented himself to a senior Department of Justice official. "I sensed there was something wrong with him," the official said of Tiongco. "I called the NBI and they warned me against (believing) what he was saying."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, another staunch defender of GMA, said he himself was "reluctant to believe" Tiongco.

This shadowy past of Tiongco Mike Defensor either did not know or, knowing, disregarded. And so Defensor still decided to use him. Result: *Nakuryente siya*.

"Mike is like the bullfrogs in that old fable," my friend said. "He is inflating himself to look bigger than the other frogs in GMA's pond. One of these days, he will just burst from too much hot air."

Mike's caper does look like an act of desperation. It is incredible why he wasted time and money (taxpayers' money appropriated to his department?) to fly to the United States and hire an American sound technician to examine tapes that—their source himself, Paguia, admitted—were edited.

The tapes were taken by Paguia from an original that played at least three hours long—the tape supposedly now with former NBI Deputy Director Sammy Ong. Paguia said he edited it and provided a narration to make the listener understand the contents better. Therefore, any technician will find them "not authentic." Elementary. Any damn fool will know that. Except Mike.

The other tapes that Sen. Panfilo Lacson and former Sen. Francisco Tatad had sent to Australia and the United States for examination have been declared "authentic." To remove

any doubt, it should be the Sammy Ong tape that should be authenticated not just by any doohickey "expert," but by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or Scotland Yard.

But is that still necessary? President Macapagal-Arroyo herself has confessed that she talked on the phone to a "Comelec official" while the votes were still being counted. For that, she has apologized. Her own lawyer admitted that the official was Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Some Comelec officials have admitted that they were invited for dinner to the home of the President in La Vista, Quezon City. It was during this dinner, held before the elections—during which GMA reportedly asked the help of the Comelec officials—that GMA's *kumare* and *kabalen*, Lilia Pineda, wife of suspected *jueteng* lord Bong Pineda, distributed envelopes with money in GMA's presence, according to Michaelangelo Zuce. All the persons concerned denied Zuce's claim.

Even without Zuce's testimony, the mere fact that GMA invited Comelec officials to dinner in her home and talked on the phone to a Comelec commissioner—never mind what they talked about—is already a grave impropriety that makes her unfit to be President and bolsters the suspicion that she and others cheated in the last elections.

She was a candidate and anybody knows that a candidate talking to Comelec officials during an election is highly improper and unethical in the same way that a judge should not talk to a litigant with a pending case in his sala.

By the way, it is really the practice of GMA to invite people to lunch or dinner to ask for their help. Recently, as part of her media blitz to improve her public image, she invited Pampango journalists for lunch at Malacañang, during which she asked for their help. For ethical reasons, some of the journalists did not want to go, but they were persuaded by Malacañang flunkies to attend. GMA probably knew that the affair was unethical because the journalists were let in not through the front entrance but through a side door.

## Reminders

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



impeachment. The central issue is legitimacy. The question is not how well or badly GMA rules. The question is whether she has the right to rule. The question is whether she is the President of the Philippines. The question is whether she has a mandate from the governed.

That is the heart of the matter. That is the state of the nation. We do not have a legitimate President ruling us.

That, of course, is the one thing GMA and her cohorts have been desperately trying to put a distance from. "I want to close this chapter and move on," GMA herself said in her speech admitting she was the voice on the tape, as though one can admit to murder and charge it to experience. Well, what she wants and what she'll get are two different things. Her cohorts of course—not the least of them Fidel Ramos, who is still around today because Paul Laxalt told Marcos, "Cut and cut cleanly"—have tried to help her get what she wants. And for a while, this forgetful country truly seemed destined to forget that GMA ever said hello to Garci.

My monumental thanks to Mike Defensor for reminding this nation she did. I can understand why Pichay should be so pissed off. It's enough to make you believe God truly works in mysterious ways. Or that people are really meant to serve a useful purpose in life, even if they themselves do not know how.

It's a case where the medium is the message. The contents of Defensor's defense we may safely forget. It is based on the word of a self-proclaimed Filipino computer expert who is facing several charges of murder, estafa and extortion, according to Angelo Reyes; and an

American who himself finds his findings inconclusive and is not averse to retracting them upon examination of the "mother of all tapes." He admits he does not understand Tagalog and has no way of ascertaining whether the tape was tampered with or merely edited.

In fact, no one has made a more ironclad case for the veracity of the tape than GMA herself when she apologized for it. There, too, my monumental thanks go to Dinky Soliman and company—it is enough to make you believe people serve a useful purpose in life unbeknownst to them—when they convinced her, while completely believing in her cause, that it would serve her best to own up to her crime. GMA never denied that she spoke with Garci about the election results—"I was anxious to protect my votes during that time." She never denied the contents of the tape, she never referred to any portion of it being doctored. You know you're being falsely accused of a crime, you will not relent and apologize, you will stand your ground and face your accusers.

GMA's confession by itself is proof of a crime. Whether the tape is doctored or not can only show the extent of the crime. The law is clear: No candidate may talk to an election official about election results, least of all the President, as no conversation of that sort may ever be presumed to be innocent. No one may do that and go on to become this country's most powerful figure, the one person set up for the people's—especially the youth's—emulation. What GMA did, as any public school teacher will tell you, is cheating plain and simple. What GMA did, as any ordinary citizen will tell you, is not a cause for reward, it is a cause for punishment. What GMA did, as the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines will tell you, is not a basis for going to Malacañang, it is a basis for going to Muntinlupa.

Again, I must thank Mike Defensor most profoundly for reminding us of the Garci tape and what it most profoundly signifies:

We have no President in this country.



## Jointly or separately

SOMETIME ago I was told by a friend, who was a denizen of the inner sanctum of the House of Representatives, that my column, where I said that the two houses of Congress should vote separately when proposing amendments, did not sit well with some of the overt advocates of constitutional revision. Now, however, I hear an opposite story. A friend, who listened to Speaker Joe de Venecia speak before a recent forum on parliamentary government, said that the honorable Speaker cited a column of mine, where I supposedly said that the two houses should vote jointly when proposing amendments.

Well, at least I should be grateful that my columns are read, even if sometimes misread, deliberately or otherwise. I think it was Chesterton who said, "My sins are scarlet, but my books are read." But for the record, and for the benefit of the Speaker—if indeed he attributed to me something I never said—let me clear things up.

What the Speaker is reported as having said is an indication that, should Congress decide to propose amendments to the Constitution, there will be a battle royal involving the question of whether the two houses of Congress should vote as one body or separately. In earlier debates regarding this issue, it had already been argued that when Congress proposes amendments, it acts as a constituent assembly and, therefore, it is not bound by the normal rules that govern Congress. I cannot accept that argument.

I begin with a fundamental principle: We have opted for a bicameral Congress. When the 1986 Constitutional Commission was drafting the current Constitution, the debate on bicameralism or unicameralism was intense. I took the side of unicameralism. When the moment of reckoning came, the side I favored, the unicameral side, lost. Yes, by one vote. The final vote was for bicameralism, 23-22.

I must confess now that I do not regret having lost that vote. Today, I thank all the 23 who voted

## SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



against unicameralism. In retrospect, I now believe that if we had voted for unicameralism, the US military bases would probably still be in Subic and Clark. Likewise, if we had voted for unicameralism, extension of term limits or total elimination of term limits would be a done deal by now.

The choice in favor of bicameralism was deliberate. One of the reasons proposed in support of bicameralism was that it allowed for mutual correction. Commissioner "Soc" Rodrigo, speaking from 12 years' experience in the Senate, gave a practical illustration which, I suspect, is also operative today. He said:

"This was our experience in the Senate of which I was a member for 12 years. There were times when members of the House of Representatives would come up and say: 'Soc, mayroon kamang inaprubahang bill doon sa Lower House; masama, hindi ko gusto pero hindi ako makatanggi sa isang lider. Kayo na ang bahala sa Senado, patayin ninyo ang bill na iyon.' This happened several times. And, of course, since the senators were elected at large like the President of the Philippines, they could stand up to the President, and this can be attested to by facts. The senators could refuse the President or even take a stand against that of the President even if the President belongs to their own party."

Bicameralism means two houses acting autonomously and occasionally checking each other. This is a fundamental principle in our Constitution. The two houses work separately. That is

the general rule. The larger House may not swallow the smaller house. If fusion is to be allowed at all, the Constitution says so. And whenever the Constitution says that the two houses meet together, the Constitution is careful to dispel any notion that autonomy is thereby being put aside. In such occasions—as when declaring a state of war, or acting as a board of canvassers for presidential and vice-presidential elections—the Constitution is careful to warn that, even in joint session, they should vote separately. Similarly, the 1935 Constitution, which said that when proposing amendments Congress should be "in joint session assembled," was careful to specify that even then the two houses should vote "separately."

The present Constitution now says: "Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by: (1) the Congress, upon a vote of three-fourths of all its Members . . ." The power is given to Congress. We should remember that there are two houses in Congress. Moreover, the two houses are not called to come together in joint session. They can stay where they are. They are empowered to propose amendments as they are where they are. Congress, as is, is simply given a constituent function, that is, the power to propose amendments.

Indeed, the two houses may agree to come together for a joint session. Coming together does not nullify the bicameral character of Congress. Only a constitutional revision can transform the two houses into a unicameral body. Voting separately, however, is of the essence in a bicameral Congress. It cannot be voluntarily surrendered either by the Senate or by the House.

The constituent function is given to a bicameral legislature. The two houses, therefore, should act as a bicameral legislature—voting separately, able to check each other, and not reduced to one monstrous body marching to the same drumbeat. Let us hope that the Senate will not surrender its autonomy to the larger house.

## Interview with a phantom

IT was one of those times that brought on again that kind of feeling where you often caught yourself wondering whether this was real or unreal, or whether this was simply because your world as you knew it had been turned upside down by forces beyond your control.

I was still grappling to come to terms with the State of the Nation Address Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo delivered last month (which turned out to be the most vulgar display of political obscenity I have ever seen in my lifetime), when she giggled on television that she was the one cheated in the last elections and then blamed us for creating a rotten system that made her a "victim."

Change the system, change the structure, she said, echoing, four decades late, the early batches of military officers and an elite selection of bureaucrats who invented the term "technocrat," and whom Marcos sent to the Asian Institute of Management and the Development Academy of the Philippines to be transformed into messiahs of the gospel of "management of change"—the messiahs who would kill the "old society" and resurrect it into the "new."

(Those whose ideas about changing the world differed from those of Marcos were killed, but they were never resurrected.)

This she told a group of infants who, she said, would be fed and nurtured to ensure that their generation would be brighter than hers; so they could create a political system that would not be as rotten as hers; assuming, of course, that they would have enough to eat to survive that long.

Even then, those babies were still lucky because they and their unsuspecting mothers got to have precious photographs to show generations of relatives, neighbors and friends of that incredible day they were actually allowed inside the Palace; even as others, some years older than the babies, were dying a slow death breaking their backs carrying sacks of rice in the port of Cebu, cutting sugarcane in Negros, and burning themselves dry under the sun in a quarry in Romblon.

But I guess what really triggered the topic of this piece was seeing the members of the foreign

## KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyne Mustafa



press, some of them friends of mine, being sent out of the room where Ms Arroyo would face the media in a press conference, emceed by Ignacio Bunye, wearing as usual, the excruciatingly inscrutable face of one who must have been an android in his immediate past life.

It was that time again when, in desperation, I had to seek refuge in my most inexpensive coping mechanism: sleep, perchance to dream "dreams no mortal dared to dream before," and maybe, if only in my dreams, "with Fate conspire to change this sorry scheme of things entire."

And so in deep sleep I dreamt I was "Madam President" being interviewed by a lone interviewer who looked like Korina Sanchez but who introduced herself to me as "Your Worst Media Nightmare." But the worst part of it was, I could not answer any of her questions because my tongue was paralyzed with fear at the sight of a horrible phantom looming behind Korina. The phantom kept changing its face in rapid succession—from that of Bunye to Rigoberto Tiglao, to Eduardo Ermita, to Gabriel Claudio, to Ricardo Saludo, to Angelo Reyes, to Raul Gonzalez, to Fidel Ramos, to Jose de Venecia, then back to Bunye to start another cycle of those faces and another and another—all of which scowled at me, I noted, with eyebrows that turned into half-moons. I couldn't quite comprehend why, each time Korina asked a question, this phantom, whatever face he was wearing at a particular moment, would make, with his hands, one of two signs: zipping his mouth or cutting his throat.

I woke up in cold sweat.

As I sat in the living room, slipping into a catatonic state "while I pondered weak and weary,"

trying to fathom the significance of my nightmare, Mike the Defender came on the television screen before me, giving the greatest performance of his life, trying to convince the media that "it is the voice of the President (on the Garci tapes) but it is not the President talking."

It was, I swear, delivered with the same level of irony achieved by Marlon Brando as Mark Anthony in his oration, telling the Roman *masa* about the treachery of the members of the senate, yet asserting at the end of every bitter disclosure, "and they are all honorable men."

I am at a loss for words. Due to a limited vocabulary, I cannot seem to describe, even in my silent but very weary mind, my reaction to this, except to recognize what appears to be some kind of irrelevance rising from the depths of my murky thoughts: Defensor has just been removed from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to head an agency especially created for him, the Department for the Defense (of Ms Arroyo), resulting in a bureaucratic crisis because there is nobody who can replace Mike on the expressway, where he chases, before cameras, trucks of illegal logs.

And then it happened.

It was a moment as magical as can be possible in these times. Philippine media have been vindicated, the humiliation of Pocat has been assuaged. I have never been prouder to be part of this noblest of professions.

It was one shining moment in Philippine journalism that will inspire us all in our constant struggle in treading the difficult path between the truth and the greatest hoax that has been played on the Filipino people.

No, this country, this nation will not perish, not even under the most relentless assault of lies and deception the phantom can conceive.

The biggest nail on the coffin of this fraudulent administration was driven right after the day the casket containing the body of the President I voted for was embraced by the earth that had sustained him in life. And he was an honorable man.

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

## Action this weekend

I'D like to give way to two calls for action in the coming days. The first comes from Citizens for TRUTH. This is a group of private citizens, none of whom have political ambitions but who are concerned with public apathy today. I share their point of view, as expressed in their manifesto.

Demand Transparency, take Responsibility, foster Unity, restore Trust and breed Hope!

Years ago, Manuel Quezon opted for a government run like hell by Filipinos; the reason was, however bad a Filipino government might be, we could always change it. We have been run like hell, but we have always found the means to redeem our nation.

Years ago, too, Ninoy Aquino declared that the Filipino is worth dying for; and his declaration inspired us to vow that he would never be alone in his view. He died for us; we lived so that his dying would not be in vain.

It is the ordinary Filipino—you and I—who are the ones being called on to answer that burning question: Is the Filipino indeed not only worth dying for, but capable of not settling for a government run like hell?

Once again we find our country and ourselves in a crisis—not just an economic or a political crisis, but a crisis of values—one that forces us to question what it is exactly we as a people believe in, what we as a nation stand for. Perhaps even what we as a race are willing to die for.

But no one needs to die if only we are willing to stand up for what we believe in: To stand up, most importantly, for the TRUTH, because the truth is the biggest victim of all that is happening around us today.

And with the demise of TRUTH comes the spread of apathy among the ordinary citizens, the same apathy that is the "quiet killer" of any democracy.

And so, today, we who count ourselves among the ordinary citizens of this country come together as Citizens for TRUTH, determined through concerted action to take this country back from a succession of leaders who have not been true to their sworn oaths; acknowledging at the same time that all of these could not have happened if we ourselves had been vigilant in the defense of our collective interest.

Let us make one thing clear: None of us as-

pire for political office. That is not our calling. But it is our calling as citizens to get involved in political action and to be true to that calling is what we intend to be.

We stand for TRUTH in government—we want a government that is true to its commitment and true to the social contract. Specifically, we:

- Demand TRANSPARENCY. A government created by the power of the sovereign people cannot exercise that power by hiding the truth from the people.

- Take RESPONSIBILITY.—We must be responsible for our individual actions, for each other, for the success as well as the failure of our collective endeavor.

- Seek to foster UNITY.—United in love for country and in our commitment to each other . . .

- Commit to restore TRUST.—The culture of suspicion that misgovernment has bred over the years cannot endure.

- Finally, as citizens, we pledge ourselves to breed HOPE. More than just honest, orderly and peaceful elections—a necessary element of democracy that has been too bastardized—we believe that the collective genius of our people will be unleashed, and their collective potential fulfilled, the moment a sense of HOPE for the future infects each and everyone of us.

The time has come for the ordinary Filipino—for you and me—to stand up and be REALLY counted.

If you share in our beliefs, JOIN US in a simple demonstration of our collective sentiments.

On Saturday, Aug. 20, at exactly six o'clock in the evening may we invite you to stop and take a few moments to light a candle to demonstrate that the ordinary Filipino—you and I—is ready to spread the light that will banish the darkness that envelops our nation.



Manuel L. Quezon III

"SINO NGA BA ANG BAYAN? DI BA TAYO—ikaw at ako?"

Next comes the Black & White Assembly, convened by: The Moral Majority; Bangon Pilipinas; Manindiganti; C4T—Citizens for Truth and Resignation, Impeachment or Ouster; CODE-NGO; National Peace Conference; LGCNER; Institute of Popular Democracy; AWARE; PhilDHRRA; Pagbago@Pilipinas; C4CC—Citizens for Con Con; Phil CO Society; PASCRES; GZO Peace Institute. Their statement follows:

On Aug. 21, 2005, we commemorate the death of a true Filipino patriot—Ninoy Aquino, by launching the Black & White Movement—a broad coalition of middle forces who would like to stand for what is right in the current political crisis.

Ninoy's death inspired unity of a people at the verge of hopelessness and despair. It is best embodied in the battle cry: "Hindi ka nag-isa."

Today, our nation once again cries out for unity. We have become, not just a nation divided, but a people fragmented.

We believe GMA cheated and we demand her RESIGNATION, IMPEACHMENT or OUSTER.

Recent surveys by the SWS and Pulse Asia show that the majority of our people share this belief. But we can't seem to agree on a post-GMA scenario that we will advocate.

It's time to make a unified stand, and consolidate our protest actions.

And we draw from the inspiration of Ninoy and ask you, "Muli tayong magka-isa."

If you share our belief, please join us in this Black & White Assembly, where you can participate in (a) building consensus on a common manifesto; and (b) planning concerted actions.

This will be held on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2005 at La Salle Greenhills, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cheating is a moral issue where there are no gray areas. There's only black and white.

Admission is free. Please pre-register by sending an e-mail to enteng@healourland.ph or by confirming with Jane Laviña or Edzel Mirafelix: Tel/Fax 426-5938; Cel 0918-9192548 (Jane); Cel 0917-8163223 (Edzel). Please bring family and friends. Needless to say, we encourage you to come in black & white attire.

## Witches' brew

IF you think the heated discussions of the congressmen tackling the mechanics for the impeachment are all garbage, take a look at the garbage-in.

Other than election fraud, many of the over a dozen charges against the President are indeed mind-boggling. For starters:

- The President's approval of the E-VAT Law: "The oppressive E-VAT Law is another act of betrayal of public trust," according to former Marcos lawyer Oliver Lozano's Fifth Supplemental Affidavit. So, will all the legislators who voted for the passage of the E-VAT Law also face impeachment?

## COMMENTARY

Rigoberto D. Tiglao

- The President's refusal "to meet one-on-one with Mrs. Imelda Marcos" and "re-negotiate the 75-25 compromise agreement on the Marcos wealth" (Fifth Supplemental Affidavit). I'm sure Imelda is dying to be a witness in this charge.

The following six charges are in the "Amended Complaint" filed July 22 by the opposition and other Gloria Ibagsak people:

- "Human rights violations": "Killings of political dissenters and infringement of their freedoms of expression and assembly...perpetrated by the members and agents of the AFP" The Left must be jolted out of its time-warp, that we're in 2005 now, not in 1985 when people under the Marcos dictatorship certainly believed that party line. Obviously, other than the President, the armed forces will be the accused here. The AFP has maintained in investigations by the Commission on Human Rights that the alleged killings were casualties in the anti-insurgency campaign. With this charge, the Gloria Ibagsak conspirators can kiss goodbye their wishful thinking that the military will one day join them.

- Implementing the North Rail Project. Why not file this in the Ombudsman where it logically belongs, if the charge had any merit? Because the charge recruits into the impeachers' camp every congressman who hates Speaker Jose de Venecia, who convinced the Chinese government to invest in the project. This charge intends to torpedo what could be an epochal project that would link Manila to the northern provinces in the same manner that railways became the arteries for the US economic expansion at the turn of the 20th century. Exasperated, the ambassador of the People's Republic of China said: "Please keep endless politics out of NorthRail."

- Not implementing Piatco's Terminal III contract: But it was the Supreme Court itself which ruled the contract anomalous. The respected Gloria Tan-Climaco, a former SGV chair, should file a libel case against those who signed the impeachment complaint. It makes the ridiculous charge that she asked for \$20 million from Fraport for the government to open the terminal. Coincidentally or not, the Piatco lawyers are the same high-profile lawyers for the purported jueteng witnesses.

- PhilHealth Cards: Only in the Philippines will a head of state be impeached for making available health insurance for 69 million of its citizens, 30 million of whom are the poorest in the land.

- Road Users Tax Projects: Only in the Philippines will a head of state be impeached for implementing a law (RA 8794 of June 2000) to maintain roads.

- Deactivation of the Southern Philippines Development Authority and the downsizing of the National Electrification Administration. Huh?

Another impeachment charge, over which Dinky most probably will be teary-eyed over:

- That the President "permitted the First Gentleman" to stay away from the country (Third Supplemental Affidavit).

The impeachment charges look more like an obnoxious witches' brew wherein everyone in the coven wants to add his or her own special poison ingredient.

The ingredient for the Erap-FPJ-Lacson forces that were defeated in 2004: the election-fraud charges. Big, big problem here. This relies 100 percent on what the opposition admits are illegally acquired wiretaps. These are inadmissible in any proceeding according to the Anti-Wire Tapping Law. In the first place, are they really accurate recordings of conversations? Last Friday, local and foreign experts concluded that the tapes were either spliced or had serious anomalies.

The ingredients for the Left: "human rights violations," and the E-VAT.

Throw in the ingredient that the President should be impeached for not negotiating a settlement with the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. This would bring in the remnants of the Marcos forces.

It is not surprising therefore, that many in Congress would not want to gulp this witches' brew—intended not for anything else but to drug people's minds to join another lynch-mob.

Analyze the sequence of events of the past two months, and the word conspiracy jumps out. The jueteng hearings started in early June and then the alleged tapes surfaced a week later. The impeachment complaints were made between June 27 and July 22. The Gloria Resign campaign reached its peak July 8, when on that day the following events occurred: the Hyatt 10's melodrama, the resign calls by Cory, by a faction of the Makati Business Club, and then by the Drilon wing of the Liberal Party. Jojo Binay's Makati rally that evening was supposed to be the culmination of that coup-through-press-conferences.

That offensive fell on its face, and people have started to ignore the Ibagsak hubbub. On to Plan B: Camouflage the agitation to oust a President elected by 12.9 million Filipinos through an impeachment process, wherein everything but the kitchen sink will be thrown against her.

The plot's next scenario: Trigger a People Power when Congress throws out the impeachment complaint.

The Constitution's framers had the wisdom to realize that the impeachment process could degenerate into a harassment weapon for an immoral opposition hurling a plethora of baseless charges against a President, and tying down Congress away from its primordial law-making duty. So they put up a check on the process: Congress can consider only one impeachment complaint per year. A technicality that may seem, but only rules can put scheming scoundrels at bay.

"Fair is foul, foul is fair," the witches in Shakespeare's Macbeth intoned. Things are seldom what they seem.

For Congress to tackle all of the complaints seems fair. Yet it runs foul not only of the Constitution, but of sheer common sense. Not meeting with Imelda Marcos as grounds for impeachment? The Piatco and NorthRail issues?

For Congress to limit the inquiry only to the first Lozano complaint may seem foul. It is really being fair to Congress—and to all Filipinos—time and energies.

(Secretary Tiglao is the head of the Presidential Management Staff. He was an INQUIRER columnist before he joined government in 2001. His views in this column are his own and should not be construed as official views of the Office of the President.—Ed.)



## Discovering new solutions

IT is such a relief to read a positive account of our future in these days of gloomy predictions. I refer to Randy David's Aug. 7 column, where he sees new possibilities for the Philippines.

Despite the continuous political strife, David correctly identifies new openings for the future. Filipinos have seen that there are many opportunities abroad for those who are denied them at home. On their return, they recognize the inequities of local life and realize that there are better ways of sharing and distributing social, cultural and economic resources.

A more equitable society is humanly achievable, but it requires appropriate skills, attitudes and knowledge. The old

ways are inadequate. Increasingly, we have to invent or discover new solutions. These new ways involve risks and will only work if structures of trust underpin them. Hence, we seem to be caught in a dilemma. Now that the old ways no longer work, how are we to establish structures of trust for yet untested solutions?

The answer lies in a vigorous, consensual and informed public sphere. The new media, including the Internet and mobile phones, have finally ensured that most Filipinos can participate in public life. How they do so and with what consequences are still to be determined. But one thing is certain—the old shibboleths

no longer apply. Tradition and experience are no longer guarantees of success. Only innovation, creativity and resourcefulness can ensure the country's future. Filipinos have these qualities as much as foreigners, but they need to apply them in the new conditions. In this context, the education of the Filipino becomes the most important element for personal and collective survival.

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Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, QC

## Thanks for the blessings of peace, faith and hope

MY children and I thank former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz and the *Inquirer* for the article, "The Evelio Javier case," (PDI, 8/7/05)

The article made me revisit the painful events of February 1986 and brought about peace, healing, faith and hope.

It has helped ease the pain and despair which came with the unjust decision of the Antique Regional Trial Court in October 2004. These past few days I have been thinking of the 1986 Supreme Court decision in the case Evelio Javier vs. Commission on Elections.

I ponder on this great blessing as I pray

for the eternal repose of Raul Roco, my husband's pro bono lawyer in the case. My deepest appreciation and gratitude to the family of Raul Roco, Justice Isagani Cruz and the *Inquirer*.

—PRECIOUS LOTILLA JAVIER  
AND CHILDREN  
(widow and family of Evelio Javier)



## Not deserving of Libingan ng mga Bayani

IN HIS July 30 column, Mon Tulfo urged the burial of former President Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, arguing that if lesser mortals—like his father and grandfather who fought in Bataan—could be buried there, why not a former president of the country.

Being a former president is not enough justification for Marcos to be buried there. Of our 10 dead former presidents, only Carlos Garcia and Diosdado Macapagal are interred there.

Marcos was a World War II soldier and a former president, but we must never forget his misdeeds that caused the nation pain and agony: the imprisonment of his political opponents, the closure of all media outfits critical of him and his presidency, the 10,000 martial law victims, and the country's foreign debts.

When Marcos assumed office in 1965, the country's foreign debt was less than \$200 million. When he was ousted in 1986, it had ballooned to \$26 billion. The presidents that followed Marcos had to borrow to pay those debts. Hence, today about half of our yearly national

budget goes to debt servicing, instead of being used for public roads, highways, bridges, cable lines, railroads, schools, hospitals, low-cost housing and other development and poverty-alleviation programs.

We have become a more impoverished nation not only because of graft and corruption but also because about half of our annual financial means goes to paying the debts incurred by him. It seems that there's no hope for us and the future generations of Filipinos to get out of this quagmire into which Marcos had pushed us.

Marcos was one president who did much harm to this country. If our grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren will still be paying the debts he accumulated, is it reasonable to bury him in a cemetery reserved for Filipinos who did good and fought for the country?

—JON E. ROYCEA,  
Block 8 Lot 18,  
Kalayaan Village,  
1300 Pasay City

# WE SUPPORT JAPAN'S CONSTITUTION WHICH PROHIBITS THE MAINTENANCE OF ARMED FORCES

## ARTICLE 9 OF THE JAPANESE CONSTITUTION

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

## More on textbook errors

MAY I react, as an English teacher, to the paid ad titled "These are not errors." (PDI, 6/22/05)

The controversy can be resolved by the textbook writers themselves if they see their faults and correct them soonest. On their shoulders fall the responsibility to rectify unacceptable English in print. Some of their flaws may be justifiable in context; some may be inherent in our inter-language system; some may be a carry-over of speaking and writing habits from the secondary to graduate school; some may be fragmented presentation of concepts; some may be simply inadequate jelling of ideas expressed in English. At any rate, errors in textbooks, if uncorrected, remain errors for years and are eventually passed on to students. This scenario jars the sensibilities of readers, teachers and other textbook writers. How can educators display nonchalance to unacceptable English in published textbooks for our elementary and high school students?

If only to convince the textbook writers to take a second look at their work cognitively and structurally for the sake of our young learners, may I cite some glaring errors and make corrections.

1. "Harnessing English Today"

*Harnessing* the English language denotes directing the functioning of English like yoking an animal in contrast to the current trend on interactive, communicative and learner-oriented English.

2. "Simply Science in the Next Century"

*Simply* is an adverb. Aside from its diminutive implication, it cannot technically precede Science as a noun. And why dwell on the futuristic "Next Century"?

3. present = a certain object (correct meaning: a gift)

4. boils = ear ailments (correct definition of "boil": an infection or "surface bump" originating beneath the skin and not confined to ear ailments)

5. fell in love to a man (correct phrase: fell in love with a man)

6. kill two birds in one stone (correct idiom: kill two birds with one stone)

7. Life is so much better now that I'd like to turn back the time. (illogical) (Logical: Life is so much better now unlike the sad past. Or to keep the original idea, "I'd like to turn back time to see how much better life is now.")

—ALICE S. GO,  
FCIC, Baybay, Leyte 6521

## UK's travel warnings

IN THE JULY 25 issue of the *Inquirer*, it was reported that the United Kingdom had issued an advisory warning its citizens against traveling to the Philippines because of terrorist attacks happening "anytime, anywhere" in our country.

The advisory further states that, "There is a high threat of terrorism throughout the Philippines. We continue to believe that terrorists are planning attacks against both Philippine and Western interests."

Look who's talking. Just very recently, terrorists carried out simultaneous bombings in the heart of London, the United Kingdom's capital, killing more than 50 civilians and injuring hundreds. Two weeks later, another series of bombing attacks was carried out also in London but it failed—not because authorities were vigilant, but because the terrorists made mistakes.

The British government should instead issue advisories to encourage its citizens to abandon the United Kingdom and live in the Philippines or elsewhere where they will be safer.

As for the Philippine government, it should issue its own travel advisory warning Filipinos to avoid the United Kingdom—not because of terrorist threats but because of trigger-happy and nervous police authorities who have started killing innocent people. Only very recently, they gunned down a defenseless and innocent Brazilian.

If the British can't predict attacks even on their homeland, they should be reminded to mind their own business and to stop issuing travel advisories derogatory to other countries.

—ERNIE ADAYA,  
ernie\_adaya@yahoo.com

● **ARTICLE 9** of Japan's Constitution is a clear promise by the people of Japan to the world, particularly to the Asia-Pacific people, to never repeat its history of war and colonization.

ARTICLE 9 sets the important challenge of working towards world peace through dialogue, confidence building, and mutual cooperation, and not by military means.

We support ARTICLE 9 – which renounces war and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces – in order to promote peace in the region and throughout the world, today and for the future.

We ask you to join us and help spread support for ARTICLE 9 around the world.

This public notice is part of the Global ARTICLE 9 Campaign, which seeks to promote international support and understanding for the philosophy and maintenance of Japan's Peace Constitution, namely ARTICLE 9. This campaign has been initiated by organizations working on conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Asia-Pacific region, with Japan-based NGO Peace Boat <[www.peaceboat.org](http://www.peaceboat.org)> as the regional secretariat.

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# USAID taps schools in energy conservation bid

BAGUIO CITY—A US donor agency is pushing energy conservation for provinces as unstable fuel prices bring Asia closer to an energy crisis.

The US Agency for International Development's (USAID) Energy and Clean Air Project (Ecap) has noted the slow pace by which local governments initiate energy conservation measures, said Arlene Donaire, Ecap

deputy chief of party.

Renato Goco, a USAID consultant and Ecap chief of party, said donor agencies were resorting to the country's network of universities instead.

By tapping the resources of over 300 universities, Ecap is tapping the academe to advocate clean energy and energy conservation in their areas, he said.

Goco signed partnership deals

with the University of the Cordilleras and the University of Baguio on July 25 to jump-start a university-led clean air campaign in Baguio.

The agreements were forged as President Macapagal-Arroyo announced in her State of the Nation Address in July that her administration would push for legislation benefiting renewable and indigenous power to cushion the

country from unstable oil prices.

Goco said donor agencies were concerned about the fate of foreign-assisted projects in the country which lost their momentum as soon as funds dried up.

"Once [the government] implements the project, it is gone and forgotten. We are hoping that the academe... will build on [these energy programs after the project ends]," he said.

The city is piloting a clean fuel program and a water management program introduced by the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI). It is one of the beneficiaries of the USAID-financed Clean Cities Program.

The Ecap reinforces these other USAID projects by interacting with local governments to help draw up ordinances or policies

that would apply the project results, Donaire said.

Goco said donor agencies had also started reviewing the impact of the projects on the provinces.

ICLEI and the USAID Clean Cities Program have been promoting a mixed use of diesel fuel and coconut methyl ester (coco biodiesel) for Baguio's public utility vehicles. Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

## PNP eyes planting coffee in marijuana farms

By Alex Pal  
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Philippine National Police is looking into the possibility of stamping out the marijuana problem by replacing marijuana plantations with another addictive but equally lucrative substance—coffee.

PNP Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon, commander of the anti-illegal drug operations task force, said they would be looking into coffee varieties that would grow in areas formerly planted to marijuana.

"Marijuana is so toxic that after the soil is planted to it, no other crop can grow there," De Leon told reporters Friday while on a sentimental visit to this city and Negros Oriental, where he was provincial commander of the defunct Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police (PC/INP) from 1988 to 1990.

He said the idea of planting coffee in erstwhile marijuana plantations was hatched during a meeting of antidrug advocates at the Cordillera Autonomous Region recently.

The Philippines is exporting *barako* (Batan-gas) coffee to Arab countries, which have grown to love Philippine coffee, he said.

Recent antidrug operations have revealed that marijuana use is again on the rise because of the scarcity of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride).

He made the comment after Councilor Noel de Jesus, who is also a doctor accredited with the Dangerous Drugs Board, proposed the legalization of marijuana in order to unload the police of the burden of running after marijuana users.

De Jesus cited an increasing trend among advanced countries to decriminalize the use and cultivation of marijuana because of its medicinal and therapeutic value.

De Leon, however, contended that decriminalizing the cultivation or use of marijuana would create more problems. He noted studies that show that marijuana users tend to graduate to higher drugs, like shabu.

"I am happy that the law does not allow us the cultivation or use of marijuana," he said.

De Leon also frowned on suggestions to stop the use of shabu by mixing it with poison and selling them in the market to drug users.

"That will not be fair to drug users because some users are victims. Some users do not even want to take drugs but do so without

knowing it," he said.

The PNP recently launched its new antidrug program called the "Pamilya Ko Ayaw sa Droga" (My family does not want drugs), which also hopes to strengthen family ties.

Families, De Leon said, should impose their own curfew at home so that parents could monitor their children and keep them away from harmful drugs.

## Puerto repeals no-mining ordinance

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Barely two months after approving a landmark ordinance imposing a 25-year moratorium on mining, the city council repealed it, citing incoherence with the National Mining Act.

The council, during its session, agreed that the ordinance might have some repercussions and its legality might be questioned because "it was in conflict with the national laws."

In late June, the city council unanimously approved Ordinance No. 279 that declared Palawan mining-free for 25 years.

The council invoked the provision of the Local Government Code (LGC) on the state policy that the territorial and political subdivisions shall enjoy genuine and meaningful autonomy.

The resolution further pointed out the LGC provision that states that "within their respective territorial jurisdictions, LGUs shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants."

To preserve the remaining natural resources of Puerto Princesa and Palawan, the city prohibits all mining activities in the city.

The ordinance stated that "it shall be unlawful for any person or business entity to engage in land clearing, prospecting, exploration, drilling, excavation, mining, transport or mineral ores and such other activities in furtherance or preparation for mining explorations."

It also prohibited the implementation of project or program by government authorities without consultation with the city government and without its prior approval.

Palawan NGO Network Inc. executive di-

rector Offie Bernardino said she was saddened by the decision of the council.

Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac) assistant executive director Gerthie Mayo-Anda said she had talked with city administrator and acting city legal officer Agustin Rocamora to clarify the repeal of the moratorium ordinance. Elac has been lobbying for a mining moratorium in Palawan.

Rocamora told her that the council based its decision on a Supreme Court decision that local councils had no right to prohibit the entry of a business whose franchise, such as lotto betting stations, is given by Congress.

"They don't want to be put in a position that they will be challenged," Anda said, "because it could be an *ultra vires* act, which means an act beyond their power."

But she said there was no flaw in the moratorium ordinance because this was not the first time a local government enacted such kind.

"They have tried it in Capiz, Samar, Oriental Mindoro and Iloilo," Anda said.

If the city council was afraid, it could invoke the Tano vs Socrates case, a landmark SC decision that supported the right of the local government to preserve its ecology through ordinances, she added.

"In provinces where there is a mining moratorium, nobody is charged in court," Anda said.

Since the city council still wanted a mining moratorium, a possible alternative it talked about was a resolution expressing the city's antimining stand.

Anda expressed willingness to help the city draft a resolution. Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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## PhilHealth's Sponsored Program: Pursuing a Noble Cause Despite the Odds

It is considered the heart of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) and is, in fact, a cause that no other organization would have wanted to pursue, given the intricacies of its implementation. But guided by its mandate to ensure that all Filipinos, regardless of economic standing, are provided with health insurance coverage, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) continues to see the Sponsored Program through, no matter what the obstacles are.

### What is the Sponsored Program?

It was in 1997 when the first local government unit (LGU), the province of Abra, forged ties with PhilHealth for the enrolment of its indigent residents into the Sponsored Program. Back then, the program was called Indigent Program. Priority for coverage under the said program at that time were areas identified under the Social Reform Agenda of then President Fidel V. Ramos who issued Administrative Order 277 calling on PhilHealth to focus its efforts on the poorest 25 percent of the entire RP population.

The Program primarily entails the enrolment of the less privileged members of society into PhilHealth. Through this mechanism, the medical care benefits that seemed unreachable to the poor were already available to them, through the auspices of the sponsoring LGU and of the National Government through PhilHealth.

Among these medical care benefits were allowances for hospital room and board fees for the principal member and his legal dependents, for x-ray and other laboratory exams, for the use of the operating room complex, as well as for the professional fees of the attending physicians. A set of out-patient diagnostic benefits is also available for the enrolled families at PhilHealth-accredited rural health units, aside from the regular out-patient benefits ranging from chemotherapy, radiotherapy, cataract extraction and minor surgical procedures.

### How are the enrolled families chosen?

When PhilHealth started implementing the Sponsored Program in the late-'90s, it employed a selection mechanism called Community-Based Information System - Minimum Basic Needs (CBIS-MBN) where families were carefully screened to ensure that they indeed, deserved the benefit but cannot afford to shoulder the annual premium contribution to the Program. It took PhilHealth several months after the initial screening process to finally ascertain the list and the efforts paid off well.

Today, the screening process begins with the submission by the LGU of a list of the indigent families in their localities, based on the listing of the local Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). PhilHealth, through its enumerators, administers the Family Data Survey Form (FDSF) and validates the results using economic and other parameters that will ascertain the eligibility of the families

in the list. Once validation is completed, PhilHealth bills the LGU for their share in the annual premium of the families and releases the Family Health Cards when payment, or at least a Certificate of Fund Availability (CAF) is issued by the LGU. An orientation on how the Card may be used follows at the LGU level.

### How much do LGUs pay annually?

The annual premium contribution of each enrolled indigent family is pegged at P1,200. The sharing scheme between the National Government and the LGU depends on the income classification of the LGU that is sponsoring the enrolment. First to third class cities and municipalities equally share the financial burden with the National Government for the entire duration of the program. On the other hand, the premium contribution of fourth to sixth class LGUs are progressively increased and these are only made equal to that of the National Government only when they are upgraded to 1st, 2nd or 3rd class categories.

### Is the sponsorship limited to LGUs?

Almost ten years after the initial steps toward program implementation were made, PhilHealth has secured the support of over 1,488 LGUs around the archipelago, regardless of political affiliation. This is an indication that more and more local government officials have seen the beauty of the program, especially where providing their needy constituents with access to quality health care services is concerned.

The Sponsored Program has equally gained the trust and confidence of sponsors from the private sector including socially responsible companies and philanthropic individuals who have taken on the financial role of the LGUs.

GlaxoSmithKline, for one, has enrolled over 10,000 indigent families from Quezon City, Manila, Taytay, Cainta, Ilocos Norte, Tacloban and other project sites since 2002. Now on its third year of implementation, GSK and PhilHealth foresee a cost-sharing mechanism with the families enrolled in the program, to instill in them a sense of dignity especially where their health care needs are concerned.

Various chapters of the Rotary Club, Lions Club and Inner Wheel Clubs nationwide, as well as religious organizations, credit cooperatives, banks, schools, and medical societies have similarly paid for the enrolment of indigent families, bringing to fore the Filipino spirit of *bayanihan*. Caring individuals like Engr. Gregorio Macaraig of Sta. Maria, Laurel, Batangas and Isagani V. Fuentes of Davao City have also enabled poor families to access quality health care, a dream they have been wanting to realize.

### A worthy cause to support

Despite the political issues hounding it recently, the Sponsored Program continues to knock on the doors of those who are willing to share their good fortune to the less privileged sector. It continues to appeal to corporate citizens about to embark on their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and help bring the good news on health to as many needy Filipinos as possible.

So the next time you think of a worthy cause to support, take the Sponsored Program of PhilHealth in mind and experience the joy of being able to help the less fortunate, by ensuring that they have medical care coverage, wherever and whenever they need it most.

**PhilHealth**  
Your Partner in Health

Sources:  
1. The Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 7675, July 2000  
2. The Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 8241  
3. Interview with Ms. Maria Lourdes M. Lopez, PhilHealth Program Management Group for Membership and Marketing, August 1, 2005  
4. "There's Just No Limit to Service," by Evelyn P. de Leon, unpublished article for the PhilHealth Communicator, Issue 1, 2005  
5. Private Sponsorship Program Status of Implementation as of May 31, 2005

## Honest janitor hailed

LUCENA CITY—The city council has commended a supervising janitor at SM City here for exemplary honesty.

Two weeks ago, Angelito Caintoy found a bag containing P3,200 cash, a mobile phone and two "pay-to-cash" checks amounting to P444,376 in one of the mall theaters.

Caintoy immediately turned over the items to his superiors.

The mall management rewarded Caintoy's deed by giving him a certificate of commendation, a cash prize and "special treatment" for one day.

SM City Lucena also planned to make Caintoy a regular employee. Caintoy's picture has also been displayed in all bulletin boards at the mall. Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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# CONGRESS MUST UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW

## IMPEACHMENT AND THE RULE OF LAW

### THE RULE OF LAW

An essential feature of a democratic government like ours is that we are governed by the rule of law. Observance of the rule of law at all times is indispensable to a nation's survival, for society's existence and stability cannot be left to the momentary caprice of the ruling mob. There is no alternative to the rule of law except the reign of chaos, confusion and incessant destabilization.

### THE RULE OF LAW ALLOWS ONLY ONE IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT PER YEAR

The Constitution allows the initiation of only one (1) impeachment complaint within a period of one year. This rule was applied by the Supreme Court in **Francisco, Jr. vs. The House of Representatives**, 415 SCRA 45 (2003), where the second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Davide was barred for being initiated on the same year as the first complaint.

The constitutional one (1)-year bar rule is precisely intended to afford breathing space for impeachable officers, like the President, to focus on their functions. More importantly, this rule is precisely aimed at preventing destabilization that may tear the fabric of our democratic institutions.

The impeachment proceedings against President Arroyo had already been initiated by the filing of the impeachment complaint filed by Attorney Lozano and its referral by Speaker Jose de Venecia to the Office of the Secretary General and to the Committee on Justice. Hence, other impeachment complaints in the guise of Supplemental Complaints and Amended Complaint, may no longer be filed without violating the constitutional one (1)-year bar rule.

### THE AMENDED COMPLAINT AND THE RULE OF LAW

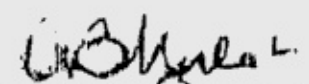
The 'Amended Complaint' violates the rule of law on impeachment:

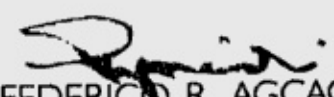
1. **It violates the constitutional one (1)-year bar rule** because the Lozano complaint already constituted an initiation of the impeachment proceeding against the President.
2. **It is a new complaint because it introduces new and substantial matters** not raised in the Lozano Complaint and which completely alters the latter. It was disguised as an "Amended Complaint" in order to circumvent the one (1)-year bar rule. In fact, Lozano himself admits that the Amended Complaint is totally different from the Lozano Complaint as he seeks separate resolution of the latter.
3. **It was filed without permission.** The Lozano Complaint has already been answered; thus, prior permission of Congress is required before filing the Amended Complaint. This policy is an element of fairness and due process.
4. **It refers to acts performed by the President before her current term.** Acts performed before an elected official's term are not allowed to be used as charges against that official to remove him from his current term.
5. **It is a disguised election contest, not an impeachment complaint.** Only one body has been constitutionally conferred jurisdiction over election issues concerning the President: the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. Congress cannot allocate this power upon itself.
6. **It relies on illegally tapped conversations,** which are inadmissible being prohibited by the Constitution and the Anti-Wiretapping Law. Is Congress willing to be consumed by partisan concerns that it would consider using illegal means to combat perceived illegal acts?

The complainants in the Amended Complaint have only themselves to blame for the foregoing fatal violations of the rule of law on impeachment proceedings. To cater to the whim of the complainants in utter disregard of the rule of law would result in the filing of a third, fourth, fifth, etc. . . . impeachment complaints and result in further destabilization and paralysis of government.

The President, like any other citizen, is entitled to the rule of law.

**CONGRESS, AS THE LAW-MAKING BODY OF THE REPUBLIC, MUST BE THE FIRST TO UPHOLD THE RULE OF LAW.**

  
ARSENIO B. YULO, JR.  
Past President (1984-1985)  
Philippine Bar Association

  
FEDERICO R. AGCAOILI  
Past President (2000-2001)  
Philippine Bar Association

  
JUDGE FEDERICO Y. ALIKPALA, JR.  
Past President (2001-2002)  
Philippine Bar Association

  
ROLANDO R. DE LA CUESTA  
Past President (2002-2003)  
Philippine Bar Association



# There's life after Gloria and the tapes

From page A1

royo administration for not exercising enough political will to implement reforms to avert the deficit.

What is remarkable about the "blueprint" of the Nemenzo group is that it represents a fresh attempt to refocus national discourse from the sterile and sordid debate over the tapes that have provoked demands for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and over proposals calling for constitutional revision as way to end the current political crisis.

## Above partisan fray

It stayed above the partisan fray over the tapes which have dominated the political debate during the past few weeks following their disclosure last month. It avoided reference to the scandals rocking the Arroyo administration.

By doing so, the blueprint refocused national attention to the more fundamental issues that it considered were at the root of the decline of the Philippine State and the current crisis.

The fact that the blueprint was drafted by a group associated with the nationalist-left tendency at the UP—among them Nemenzo, Randy David and Renato Constantino Jr., none of whom is a great fan of Ms Arroyo—puts it above suspicion the initiative was intended to divert attention from the scandals buffeting the Arroyo administration and threatening its survival.

Nemenzo et. al did the unexpected and unpredictable. Given their ideological perspective and their history of political activism, they would have been expected to get into the center of the "great debate" on constitutional revision and to put their intellectual weight behind any of the sides in the conflict that has deeply divided the nation.

Their academic detachment from the issues fueling the scandals allows them to redirect the agenda toward a vista that offers some hope to the nation, away from the demoralizing state of politics and the debate that is feeding on a frenzy of misinformation and unverified accusations.

The blueprint only makes indirect reference to the scandals. "Unbridled corruption and cynicism are rampant both in the public and private sectors," the document says.

## Diminishing credibility

"The credibility of our electoral process is fast diminishing because of massive vote buying and electoral fraud," it says. "Our confidence is declining in the ability of the present political leadership to lead the country out of the rut."

From this perspective, the blueprint comes as a much-needed relief from the poisonous atmosphere generated by the intensely partisan debate over the tapes and other perceived faults and shortcomings of the Arroyo administration.

It offers fresh perspectives through which solutions for the crisis may come. It seems to send the message that while it is true that the nation has now sunk into a deep crisis, and that the survival of the Arroyo regime remains in doubts, there is life after Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the tapes, no matter what is the outcome of the impeachment proceedings against the President.

The blueprint describes the current situation, offering an alternative analysis of national problems, and outlines a set to approaches to these problems.

"The best way to present the blueprint's distinctive features is to contrast analysis and recommendations with those offered the present government and/or conventional frameworks," says the paper.

## Highlights

The paper highlights the elements of a "nation in crisis," tracing them to more structural causes. These include:

- The economy "is not growing fast enough to meet the needs of a rapid multiplying population," an issue that is being avoided by the Arroyo administration in the face of the Catholic Church's opposition to population control programs.
- The economy is "extremely vulnerable to external conditions because of its excessive dependence on earnings from overseas workers and on foreign loans and investments."
- Political stability "remains elusive because of mass poverty and the exclusion of a large number of our people from meaningful participation in the nation's life."
- "The future of our young people is bleak because of the deterioration in the quality of public and private education."
- The government is increasingly unable to make ends meet, as indicated by chronic budget deficits. It is also increasingly unable to service the public debt without having to take out new loans.
- Public infrastructure is deteriorating. The national environment is being degraded.

## Contrasting view

Coming after the President's State of the Nation Address on July 25, the blueprint offers a contrasting view of the state of the nation. It reduces the Sona to a hackneyed reprint of old programs, except for the call to fast-track constitutional revision. It contradicts the President's vision of a "strong Republic."

The blueprint says that the establishment of a "strong Developmental State" is needed for its realization and implementation.

Contrasting it with the Arroyo mantra of a "strong Republic," the blueprint says that a

The 'blueprint' represents a fresh attempt to refocus national discourse from the sterile and sordid debate over the tapes

Strong Developmental State "is strong not in the sense of being authoritarian or arbitrary, but in the sense of being willful in the enforcement of its laws and resolution in the pursuit of its programs."

The principal objective of such a state "is to toughen our institutions and restore public confidence in them, free them from captivity by vested interests, and enshrine the rule of law in our society. Such a state, says the blueprint, aims to establish the conditions for sustained and equitable economic growth, so that private enterprise may flourish hand in hand with, rather at the expense of, realization of the vital social objectives."

The blueprint "prioritizes the fulfillment of the people's minimum basic needs, the termination of patronage as a mode of governance, the curbing of corruption at all levels."

The constitutional revision call stands high on the list of the blueprint's critique of the "conventional approaches." It says constitutional revision is being undertaken in a time of cynicism.

The alternative approaches of the blueprint will be examined in forthcoming essays.

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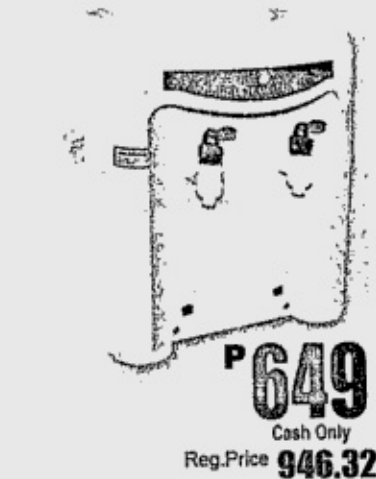
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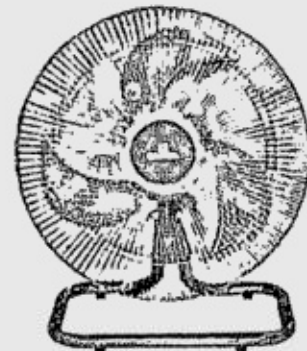
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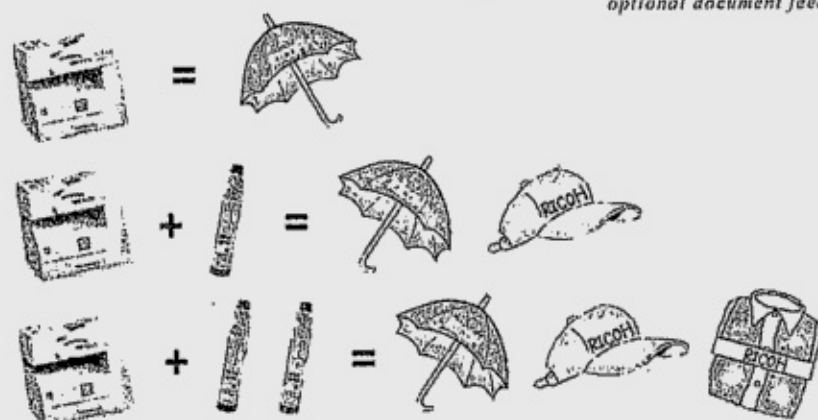
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## Makati Helplines prove burning the lines is good

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IN THE country's financial district, help is just a phone call away.

Makati City's four-year-old dial-for-help hotline has lived up to its name yet again, as it registered an almost perfect rating in responding to complaints received in the first half of the year.

The Makati Information and Community Relations Department (ICRD) announced on Friday that the Makati Helplines, the city's central emergency calls and complaints reception center, rendered proper response to 96.7 percent of calls it received from January to June.

### 1,905 of 1,970

The 24-hour hotline solved 1,905 of 1,970 complaints called in within the six-month period, Makati Action Center (MAC) officer-in-charge Edgardo Collado said in his report to City Hall last week.

The other 65 complaints, all outside City Hall's jurisdiction, were meanwhile forwarded to concerned agencies for proper response, the ICRD said in a statement. Referred calls included service-related complaints against private utility firms such as the Manila Electric Co., Maynilad Wa-



ter Services Inc., and the Manila Water Co. Inc.

Among calls that can be placed to Makati Helplines are queries or reports on community concerns such as domestic violence and child abuse, drug abuse and trafficking, illegal gambling, gang wars and neighborhood quarrels, and petty crimes.

Callers may also relay information about uncollected garbage, busted water pipes, pocket floodings, and open manholes. Emergency response teams may also be dispatched through the Helplines, in case of requests for assistance in the event of earthquakes and fire incidents.

Some 30 MAC personnel shuffling three eight-hour shifts are on standby round-the-clock for emergencies, through the quick dial number 168, and the following

telephone numbers: 896-8435, 896-3443, and 896-3441.

Come November, Makati Helplines, established in 2001 to tighten ties between City Hall and the community, will be integrated with the city's Command Center, a nerve center of emergency response agencies, which include the police and fire departments, the Makati Rescue, the other city-run public service agencies.

The Command Center will bring together in a single all-seeing emergency response center all of the city's public service audio-visual communications facilities, including security cameras on major thoroughfares within the Central Business District, and radio and telecommunications systems of law enforcement and emergency assistance agencies.

## Cops still scratching Thieves heads on Lanot case run out of luck

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FORMER Pasig City Rep. Henry Lanot was shot dead in front of dozens of witnesses and in broad daylight; but four months after the killing police have yet to move forward with the case.

"We still need to look for more evidence," Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Oscar Valenzuela said yesterday.

Valenzuela added, "Solving the case is difficult because the assassination was well-planned."

Earlier, he said they had interviewed almost a hundred witnesses about the assassination.

Yesterday, he said these were not enough to pinpoint the people behind the killing.

Lanot was eating lunch inside a Pasig City restaurant on April 13 when a

gunman emerged from the toilet behind him, walked toward him and shot him in the head.

Lanot is a former representative of Pasig City before he ran for mayor but lost to Mayor Vicente Eusebio last year.

Despite the apparent standstill in the case, Valenzuela said, "The investigation is going well. We already have leads."

But asked about the specific status of the case, he said he would not discuss details so as not to jeopardize the investigation.

Lanot's own relatives are also in the dark about the progress of the case.

"We have been going to the authorities to monitor the investigation. They said they are still collecting more evidence," Lanot's uncle Gerry said.

TWO MEN and a woman were collared for victimizing mallgoers in two separate snatching incidents at Gateway Mall and Robinson's Galleria, both in Quezon City Saturday afternoon.

Ruel Gabriel, 43, and Rodrigo Canlas, 30, were apprehended by watchmen after reportedly grabbing the bag of Leilani Sampayan, 28, as she was having lunch at Burgoon on the second floor of Gateway Mall in Cubao.

Over at the Galleria, Annie Pineda, 33, was also nabbed by a watchman after reportedly snatching the bag of Josephine Barairo, 33, who had just come from a money-changing shop.

The bag had P5,100 and 10,000 Yen (P5,100). DJ Yap

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# AUVs to launch 'bigger' strike today

By Clarissa S. Batino

DRIVERS and operators of Asian utility vehicles (AUV) are staging another strike today before the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) to demand the ouster of Chair Maria Elena Bautista as part of their protest against the issuance of the AUV Express circular.

Jun Magno, president of the Confederation of FX/Highlander/AUV Operators and Drivers' Association said at least 3,000 AUV units were expected to join today's strike.

Within the month, he said the AUVs will join all the other public utility vehicles on a nationwide transport holiday.

Jeepneys, which just had a P2-fare hike in June and taxis, a P5-flagdown increase a year ago, have indicated plans to seek another fare increase if the price of diesel hits P34 a liter.

Magno said there would be FX terminals that would not open today as he expressed belief that today's strike would be bigger and more successful.

A similar demonstration on Aug. 2 appeared to have flopped.

## Landmark (Makati) units

"I think those operating from Landmark will join us. These are the ones originating from Las Pifas, Cainta, Antipolo and Laguna," said the head of the group.

The strike will start between 5 and 6 a.m. today at the LTFRB headquarters in East Avenue, Quezon City.

"We are asking for Chairman



AUVs: On the spot

Bautista's ouster because she will not recall this circular. *Kahiyaan na 'to para sa kanya.* We are hoping that the DOTC or Malacañang would intervene," said Magno.

The AUV Express circular took effect on Aug. 5.

## AUV Express, a go

Bautista said the LTFRB will start running after "illegal" AUVs by Sept. 1 in line with the implementation of the AUV Express order.

The agency, she said, would start sending the conversion forms to those public utility vehicles qualified to have their franchises shift from a for-hire vehicle to one of an AUV Express.

About 9,000 PUVs in limbo can convert their franchises but only if these are not more than 13 years old, are not lift backs nor do they have jump seats. AUV operators who will

receive the LTFRB conversion form should bring the letter with them all ways.

The FXs, which have become a convenient public transport for a lot of commuters, must carry their passengers from terminal to terminal. They are not allowed to pickup and drop passengers midway and must be painted in all white, including their bumpers.

AUV operators have until the end of the year to have their franchises converted.

The process includes the completion of the conversion forms, payment of the P30,000 conversion fee (in as much as four installments) and the compliance with the LTFRB order to paint the vehicle all white.

## Dec. 1 deadline

"We are originally thinking of giving them up to Dec. 1 as transition. But we can extend this until the end of the year so that starting January 2006, all qualified AUV Express must have completed the conversion process," said Bautista.

The LTFRB chief said that those not qualified to convert into an AUV Express would not be phased out. She said the government would have to draw up ways to transform other PUVs in limbo into more useful public transport.

"We are not phasing out any franchise. The AUV Express order is meant to allow FXs to co-exist legally with existing franchise holders like jeeps and buses," she said.

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# Murder suspect takes a hostage, shot dead

By DJ Yap

WHEN it was all over, Nenita Bertulfo, 38, could neither talk nor cry, as though her harrowing experience with her hostage-taker had drained her.

Terror gripped 102 Imperial St., Cubao, Quezon City for over an hour yesterday, when an armed man fleeing from authorities took as hostages the four persons inside, including a one-year-old girl.

The hostage drama ended in a shootout, leaving Rosaura Innocencio, 25, dead, while his hostages emerged safe and sound, stung only by the tear gas police had used to subdue him.

## Policeman wounded

A Special Weapons and Tactics team member identified as Jun-Jun Jano was hit in the shoulder was taken to the East Avenue Medical Center, police said.

Cubao police were about to approach Innocencio, a murder suspect, at about 3 p.m. at Nepa Q-Mart for an investigation when he suddenly fired at them with a .38-caliber revolver and ran away, said Quezon City Police District

director Nicasio Radovan Jr.

Chased by Cubao police operatives, the suspect ended up on Imperial Street and entered the two-story house, all the while shooting at—and being shot by—his pursuers, Radovan said.

## Cousins trapped

Inside the house, cousins Joel Evangelista, 24, and Efrén Garcia, 42, locked themselves in the comfort room on the first floor, while Bertulfo, the girl's nanny, was upstairs with her young ward.

Police outside quickly took the girl from Bertulfo, by carrying her through the steel window bars on the second floor.

Bertulfo said the suspect threatened her with his gun and did not allow her to leave the house. Evangelista and Garcia said they were also prevented from leaving.

Shortly after 4 p.m., police and SWAT members gassed the house and gunned down Innocencio, Cubao station commander Bernabe Balba said.

He said the girl had been safely out of the house when it was doused with tear gas.

# QC hopes to make traders of jobseekers

By DJ Yap

WHY SETTLE with looking for a job and working for others when you can become a businessman and create jobs for others?

Quezon City is pushing its young to focus on not just getting jobs but also starting a business that will make jobs for others.

In his State-of-the-City address last week, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said his job program will seek to reorient the youth from simply looking for a job to becoming entrepreneurs, especially in the information technology sector.

"After graduation, the understandable call of young people is: Give us jobs. But we in Quezon City are reorienting our young people to become job generators," he said.

## QC Polytechnic University

Belmonte cited the reinvigorated program of the Quezon City Polytechnic University (QCPU) in Barangay San Bartolome, which has begun to offer degree courses

that "cater to the needs of the knowledge-based economy."

With an enrollment of 1,401, the school now offers Bachelor of Science programs in Entrepreneurial Management, Information Technology, and Industrial Engineering, he said.

## Training center

Belmonte added that a \$4.3 million training center jointly undertaken by Korea and the Philippines is 80 percent completed and will soon rise on the QCPU campus.

"Once fully operational, it will make our city the locus for advanced information technology training in Metro Manila," he said.

Small-business incubation is also an important component of his livelihood program, Belmonte said.

The program has trained more than 30,000 graduates, who learned the basics of business creation, and in some cases, obtained capital for their business, he said.

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## Virtually no surprises in PBA Rookie Draft

No.1 choice Washington plus Cardona, Canaleta go to Air21

By June Navarro

AIR21 made the biggest catch—as expected—in the annual Philippine Basketball Association Rookie Draft yesterday, picking up three blue-chip players led by this year's No. 1 overall choice Anthony Washington.

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AUGUST DELA CRUZ



TOP TWO: Anthony Washington (right) and Alex Cabagnot of SLR.

## Rookie stars as UE Warriors stop Tamaraws

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT took a valiant and brilliant performance from the University of the East Warriors to finally tame the Far Eastern U Tamaraws.

Freshman forward Bonbon Custodio buried a triple with 26.3 ticks left and the Warriors slipped past the Tamaraws, 62-57, yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

"Our game plan was to just keep it close," said Warriors coach Dindo Pumaren. "We won the game because of our defense."

It was also Custodio who sealed the victory by sinking his free throws with 4.5 seconds to go.

The Tamaraws remained on top at 7-1, while the Warriors kept second spot at 6-2.

Last season, it was also the Warriors who halted the Ateneo Eagles' 7-0 run.

Earlier, the University of Sto. Tomas Tigers regained control in overtime for a 92-85 victory over the University of the Philippines Maroons.

Custodio, who topscored with 19 points, nailed the triple for UE after Arwind Santos' putback gave the Tams a 57-57 tie in the final minute.

In junior play, the Baby Tamaraws zoomed to 7-1 after repulsing the Pages, 77-66, while the Junior Maroons (5-3) downed the Cubs, 74-52.

The varsity scores:

First Game (Srs)  
UST 92—Duncin 15, Pribidas 15, Dixon 12, Ababou 12, Taylor 10, De Guzman 9, Evangelista 6, Cuan 6, Espiritu 3, Cortez 2, Canlas 2.

UP 85—David 20, Ferrer 13, Vainio 12, Donuelo 12, Gavino 9, Buyco 4, Quebral 3, Padolina 0, Bianvenido 0, Agbayani 0.

Quarters: 29-23, 49-41, 71-69, 83-83, 92-85 (OT)

Second Game (Srs)

UE 62—Custodio 19, Borboran 7, Avelano 7, Saguindal 6, Gregorio 6, Espiritu 5, Labagala 4, Raymundo 2, Palaganas 0, Canizares 0.

FEU 57—Isp 21, Santos 14, Chan 6, Villanueva 4, Fernandez 4, Rizada 2, Flores 2, Adolo 2, Mangahas 1, Barcelano 1.

Quarters: 19-18, 39-32, 53-46, 62-57

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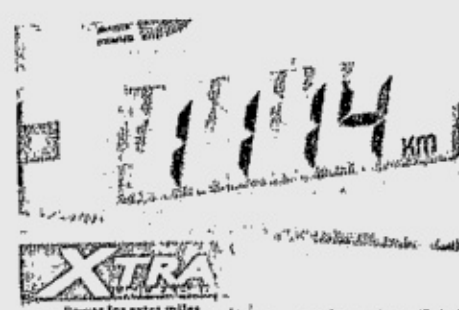
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|                                                                   |                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 STEALTH • THX<br>1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50                            | 6 THE ISLAND<br>12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00                         |
| 2 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br>11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00 | 7 ASSASSINATION OF RICHARD NIXON<br>12:30 2:20 4:10 6:00 7:50 9:40 |
| 3 BEWITCHED<br>12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00                         | 8 D' ANOTHERS<br>12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00                        |
| 4 WEDDING CRASHERS<br>12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00                  | 9 CRASH<br>12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00                              |
| 5 THE GREAT RAID<br>11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00                    | 10 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED<br>12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00         |

## ERMITA

635-7809 to 12

|                                                                  |                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 BEWITCHED<br>12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00                   | 5 D' ANOTHERS<br>10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30       |
| 2 YEAR OF THE YAO<br>THE ISLAND<br>4:00 6:50 9:40                | 6 THE GREAT RAID<br>11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00         |
| 3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br>12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50 | 7 WEDDING CRASHERS<br>10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00 |
| 4 STEALTH<br>10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50                     |                                                        |

## METRO EAST

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|                                            |                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 STEALTH<br>1:05 3:35 6:15 9:00           | 5 IF ONLY<br>12:00 2:10 4:20 6:35 9:00                           |
| 2 THE GREAT RAID<br>12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00   | 6 BEWITCHED<br>11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05                         |
| 3 D' ANOTHERS<br>12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00 | 7 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br>12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20 |
| 4 THE ISLAND<br>1:00 3:40 6:20 9:00        | 8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED<br>1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00                    |

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| 4 ARAHAN                            | 4 THE ISLAND                        |
|                                     | 5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY |
|                                     | 6 ARAHAN                            |

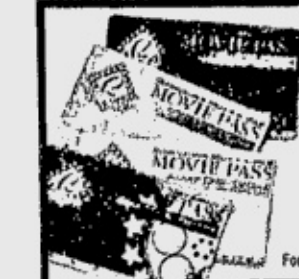
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|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>G1</b> GLORIETTA 1          | 1 BEWITCHED                                                     | 2 THE GREAT RAID                                                 | 3 THE LONGEST YARD                                                      | 4 D' ANOTHERS      |
| <b>G4</b> GLORIETTA 4          | 1 BEWITCHED                                                     | 2 THE GREAT RAID                                                 | 3 STEALTH<br>12:30, 3:00<br>GUARANTEED SEATS                            |                    |
|                                | 4 ONE LAST DANCE                                                | 5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY                                | 6 WEDDING CRASHERS                                                      | 7 THE LONGEST YARD |
| <b>GB1</b> GREENBELT 1         | 1 BEWITCHED<br>12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05                    | 2 THE GREAT RAID<br>11:20, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40                |                                                                         |                    |
| <b>GB3</b> GREENBELT 3         | 1 THE GREAT RAID<br>9:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:10<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 BEWITCHED<br>2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00, 11:10<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 3 THE LONGEST YARD<br>1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:10<br>GUARANTEED SEATS |                    |
| <b>ATC</b> ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THE LONGEST YARD                                              | 2 THE GREAT RAID                                                 |                                                                         |                    |
|                                | 3 BEWITCHED                                                     | 4 WEDDING CRASHERS                                               | 5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY                                       |                    |
| <b>ACC</b> AYALA CENTER CEBU   | 1 THE GREAT RAID                                                | 2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY                                | 3 THE EYE... INFINITY                                                   | 4 D' ANOTHERS      |

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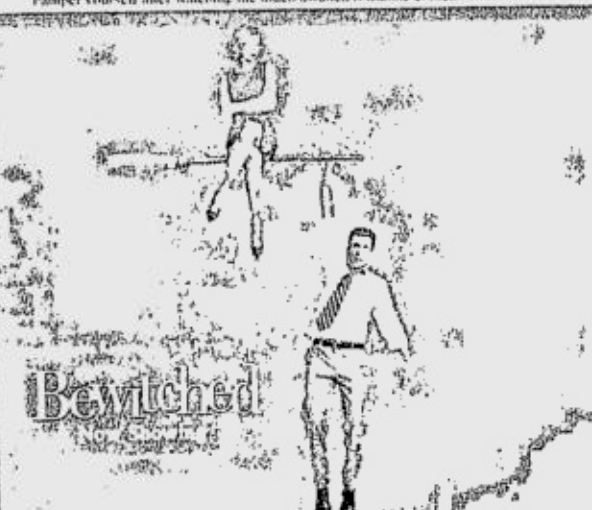
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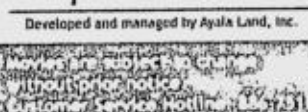
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Aug. 20  
10am-12mn

Per DTI-MR Permit No. A2-412, Series of 2005



The fun is in the finds



# Zamora stuns Yank, seizes gold

RUSSELLE Jean Zamora weathered the challenge of feared American jin Almaruthe Ross to pull off a sensational 3-0 victory and snatch the lightweight gold in junior action at the close of the fourth Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City yesterday.

Zamora, a 1st Dan blackbelter and spearhead of the NTU Tigers, stayed focused against Ross, the five-time California state champion, holding her rival to a scoreless first round before coming away with scoring kicks in the next two.

The 17-year-old Zamora took the bronze in the same tournament sponsored by leading electronics firm Samsung in 2003, then improved to a silver-medal finish last year.

Two other NTU Tigers won their gold-medal bouts with Crystal Pauline Reyes thwarting AIDA-WTG's Milagros Espina, 8-6, in the finweight final and Sarah Jane Javellana beating Carla Nikasia Roxas of Meycauayan, Bulacan, 9-4, in the middle-heavy division.

Filipino-Americans Jade Lopez and Christian Chino Cruz saved the day for the visiting California squad with the 14-year-old six-time California state



**RAYMOND** Abellar of Delta-CSB (left) scores with a roundhouse kick to the face of Wendell Dacanay during their finweight gold-medal match. **RYAN LIM**

champion Lopez trouncing Rubylyn Mapa of NTU Tigers, 7-5, for the girls' welterweight gold and Cruz dominating Harold Martinez of Baguio City, 6-0, for the boys' welter gold.

Other finals results—Featherweight: Cheembar Agaton (Rizal High School) d. John Ruiz de Luzuriaga (La Salle-Zobel), 5-2; Girls' flyweight: Karla Jane Alava (RHS) d. Jezi Lee Jumanong (Buntuan), 9-0; Finweight: Raymond Abellar (Delta-CSB) d. Wendell Dacanay (Limay), 5-2; Flyweight:

Irvin Carlos (Davao) d. John Mark Bas (Cebu), sudden death; Bantamweight: Giorgio Von Gerri de Guzman d. Asier Lev Espana (Rizal HS), 7-4; Lightweight: Dux Batangan (Las Pifas) d. Joshua Garcia (AUF), sudden death; Middle-heavy: Archie Antonio (Smash Power) d. Theodore Sarmiento (Northern California), 3-0; Girls' bantamweight: Anna Monica Dianelo (AUF) d. Kathlyn Estrabo (Rogationist College), 14-6; Girls' featherweight: Kimberly Menchavez (Ateneo) d. Cherry Angeli Vistro (Ilocos Norte), 3-1.

## PAN-PAC TILT

### Japan shuts out RP nine, sweeps elims

JAPAN pounced on crucial fielding errors by Team Philippines and pulled off a 3-0 victory yesterday to barge into the finals of the fifth Pan Pacific Junior Baseball Championship at the Sto. Niño baseball grounds in Marikina City.

Singapore, which beat the host country, 2-0, Saturday, later turned back a stubborn Australian side, 4-3, to clinch the second finals berth with its second win in three outings.

The title game is set at 11:30 a.m. today with the Japanese and the Singaporeans, represented by Japanese expatriates, already assured of spots in the South Asia Championship in October in Singapore.

The Filipinos, who finished with a 1-2 (win-loss) slate, will shoot for third place against the Australians, winless in three outings, earlier at 9:30 a.m. The match winner will also make it to the South Asia meet since the Singaporeans are automatic qualifiers as hosts.

**GAMES TODAY**  
(Sto. Niño Baseball ground, Marikina)  
9:30 a.m.—RP vs Australia  
11:30 a.m.—Japan vs Singapore

The Japanese, represented by 2005 All-Japan champion Wakanayagi, scored a run each in the second and third inning on an error by first baseman Haruta Estanislao and catcher Luke Bernardo, respectively.

Daiki Sugawara picked up the win for Japan, which swept the three-game eliminations, by striking out four batters and allowing just a walk.

The local bets, however, hope to re-assert their mastery over the Aussies, whom they hurdled, 5-3, last Saturday in the tournament sponsored by the Philippine Gaming Corp. and Marikina City Mayor Maria Lourdes Fernando.

"Hopefully, we can beat Australia again for the sake of our fans," said RP team coach Lito Ordoñez, who steered the national squad to second place behind champion Chinese Taipei in the Asia Pacific Bronco Baseball Championship last month also held in this city.

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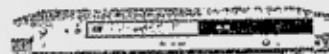
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# MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

## MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SINING GINEPLEX</b><br>10th floor Shangri-la Plaza, EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City<br>Telephone: 833.2227 / 833.7851 loc. 171                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>Filinvest</b><br><b>FESTIVAL CINEMA</b><br>(Muntinlupa) tel 859.3571 or 72                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>EASTWOOD CINEMAS</b><br>(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1 (00:00) CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP<br>2 (00:00) BEWITCHED GP<br>3 (00:00) THE LONGEST YARD PG-13<br>4 (00:00) THE GREAT RAID PG-13<br><b>PREMIERE</b><br>(00:00) BEWITCHED GP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 1 (00:00) WEDDING CRASHERS<br>2 (00:00) BEWITCHED<br>3 (00:00) FANTASTIC FOUR<br>4 (00:00) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br>5 (00:00) THE GREAT RAID<br>6 (00:00) STEALTH<br>7 (00:00) BEWITCHED<br>8 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>9 (00:00) THE EYE<br>10 (00:00) THE ISLAND                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1 (00:00) THE GREAT RAID<br>2 (00:00) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br>3 (00:00) BEWITCHED<br>4 (00:00) THE LONGEST YARD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>CINEMA 2000</b><br>Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati<br>Waltermart Center, Chino Rocas Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pina del Pilar, Makati City<br>Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Blue Wave</b><br>Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sio. Nino, Marikina City tel. 934.9127<br>1 (00:00) THE GREAT RAID<br>2 (00:00) THE EYE INFINITY<br>3 (00:00) BEWITCHED<br>4 (00:00) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>CINEMA 2000</b><br>Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) YEAR OF THE YAO<br>3 (00:00) COACH CARTER<br>4 (00:00) CREEP<br>Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Bian) tel (049) 411.1146<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) COACH CARTER<br>3 (00:00) YEAR OF THE YAO<br>4 (00:00) CREEP<br>Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) MONSTER IN LAW<br>3 (00:00) CAMOUS GHOST STORY<br>Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) SIX<br>3 (00:00) HEAD IN THE CLOUDS<br>4 (00:00) THE ISLAND<br>Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Pinaldel) tel (044) 795.3320<br>1 (00:00) MONSTER IN LAW<br>2 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>3 (00:00) CREEP                                     |
| <b>Universal</b><br>(Manila) tel: 733.4043 or 2470<br>1 (00:00) RESERVED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Mandalyong</b><br>tel 533.3851 / 533.3856<br>1 (00:00) D' NEW POLICE STORY<br>2 (00:00) RING OF NIBELUNGS<br>3 (00:00) KALAPATI SA GABI<br>4 (00:00) RESERVED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Lianas Cinema</b><br>(Alabang) tel 850.1276<br>1 (00:00) AMITYVILL HORROR<br>2 (00:00) XEREX<br>3 (00:00) LAMAT<br>4 (00:00) THE ISLAND<br><b>Lianas MovieCity</b><br>(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202<br>1 (00:00) CREEP<br>2 (00:00) COACH CARTER<br>3 (00:00) YEAR OF THE YAO<br>4 (00:00) LAMAT<br>5 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br><b>Fiesta World Mall</b><br>(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790<br>1 (00:00) SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT<br>2 (00:00) STEALTH<br>3 (00:00) IF ONLY<br>4 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br><b>Berma Cinema</b><br>(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029<br>1 (00:00) LAMAT<br>2 (00:00) CREEP                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>starmall</b><br>www.clickthecity.com.ph<br>(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150<br>1 (00:00) RESERVED<br>2 (00:00) RESERVED<br>3 (00:00) LAMAT<br>4 (00:00) BEWITCHED<br>5 (00:00) THE GREAT RAID<br><b>METROPOLIS</b><br>www.clickthecity.com.ph<br>(ALABANG) tel. 850.4285, 543.9994<br>1 (00:00) LAMAT<br>2 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>3 (00:00) RESERVED<br>4 (00:00) RESERVED<br>5 (00:00) STEALTH<br>6 (00:00) BEWITCHED<br><b>starmall</b><br>www.clickthecity.com.ph<br>(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004<br>1 (00:00) NEW POLICE STORY<br>2 (00:00) | <b>Center Mall Cinema</b><br>Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074) - (444)9346<br>1 (00:00) STEALTH<br>2 (00:00) IF ONLY<br><b>Jade Cinema</b><br>(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03<br>1 (00:00) CREEP<br>2 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>3 (00:00) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br>4 (00:00) YEAR OF THE YAO<br><b>Cine Nepo</b><br>(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) CREEP<br>3 (00:00) YEAR OF THE YAO<br>4 (00:00) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br><b>Cine Nepo</b><br>(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) MONSTER IN LAW<br>3 (00:00) JACKET<br>4 (00:00) THE ISLAND<br><b>Centre Plaza Cinema</b><br>(Banga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007<br>1 (00:00) THE ISLAND<br>2 (00:00) NEW POLICE STORY | <b>Center Mall Cinema</b><br>Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074) - (444)9346<br>1 (00:00) STEALTH<br>2 (00:00) IF ONLY<br><b>Jade Cinema</b><br>(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03<br>1 (00:00) CREEP<br>2 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>3 (00:00) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br>4 (00:00) YEAR OF THE YAO<br><b>Cine Nepo</b><br>(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) CREEP<br>3 (00:00) YEAR OF THE YAO<br>4 (00:00) CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY<br><b>Cine Nepo</b><br>(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489<br>1 (00:00) D' ANOTHERS<br>2 (00:00) MONSTER IN LAW<br>3 (00:00) JACKET<br>4 (00:00) THE ISLAND<br><b>Centre Plaza Cinema</b><br>(Banga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007<br>1 (00:00) THE ISLAND<br>2 (00:00) NEW POLICE STORY |

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

**6TH 'DATE MOVIE' DAY!**  
 MTRCB RATING PG-13 ALL AGES ADMITTED

**LAUGH-OUT-LOUD ROMANTIC COMEDY**

Nicole Kidman Will Ferrell

# Bewitched

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**OPENS AUGUST 24**

jennifer love hewitt  
dougray scott jimi mistry

# the truth about love

How far would you go to test your man?  
 How far would you go to keep him?

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**PGA CHAMPION**

# Love o Micke

SPRINGFIELD, New Jersey—Phil Mickelson was drenched in perspiration before he hit his opening tee shot in temperatures that hit 38 degrees Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) Saturday at the PGA Championship.

Then came the real heat.

Walking off the tee box, a cheer rang out from the 18th green as Thomas Bjorn got up-and-down for birdie to shoot 63, matching the record score for a major championship. In the group ahead, Mickelson could see Davis Love III birdie the first two holes on his way to a 68.

Just like that, the final major of the year turned into a shootout not many saw coming.

"We saw a lot of guys shoot under par," Mickelson said. "I would have liked to have been one of them."

Mickelson lost command of his tee shots and his putting, and he avoided a major meltdown by steadying himself for a 2-over 72 that left him tied with Love going into the final round at Baltusrol.

**Araneta Center Leisure Guide**

**THE LONGEST YARD**  
 ADVANCE SCREENINGS TODAY & TOMORROW

| GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10                   | ALI MALL CINEMAS                      |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 12:30<br>2:50<br>5:10<br>7:30<br>9:50 | 12:00<br>1:40<br>4:00<br>6:20<br>8:40 |

**CINEMA SCHEDULES**

**Globe Platinum Cinema**  
 BEWITCHED 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00  
 D' ANOTHERS 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00  
 IF ONLY 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:30 / 7:45 / 10:00  
 WEDDING CRASHERS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00  
 THE ISLAND 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

**ALI MALL CINEMAS**

|                                                      |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1 D' ANOTHERS 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00              | 4 BEWITCHED 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05 |
| 2 THE GREAT RAID 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40          | 5 STEALTH 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05   |
| 3 THE LONGEST YARD 12:00 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40 |                                        |

**ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS**

Aug 21 NU vs UP Jrs 9:30am FEU vs DLSU Jrs 11:30am  
 Sunday NU vs UP Srs 2pm FEU vs DLSU Srs 4pm

**CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE**  
 August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES  
 Aug 27 UST vs AdU Jrs 9:30am ADMU vs UE Jrs 11:30am  
 Sunday UST vs AdU Srs 2pm ADMU vs UE Srs 4pm

**CENTER EVENTS**

|                     |                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SALE EVENTS</b>  | Oxygen at the 2nd Floor of Farmers Plaza, Guess at the Upper Ground Floor of Ali Mall, and Marks & Spencer at the Upper Ground Floor of Gateway Mall |
| <b>EXHIBIT</b>      | Polo Air Exhibit ongoing until August 30 at the Level 2 LRT Concourse Area of Gateway Mall                                                           |
| <b>PERFORMANCES</b> | Cool Live Jazz at the Gateway Drive from 9 to 11pm featuring Guarana on August 19 and Eddie K & Tropicana on August 20                               |

LOG ON TO [www.aranetacenter.net](http://www.aranetacenter.net) FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

**Rahman bags WBC 'heavy' belt**

CHICAGO—Hasim Rahman unanimously outpointed friend Monte Barrett on Saturday night at the United Center to win the WBC interim heavy-weight championship and keep his place at the front of the line to face Vitali Klitschko.

Rahman (41-5, 33 knockouts) had said he wanted an early knockout, but was unable to catch Barrett (31-4, 17 KOs). Rahman and Barrett are friends whose children play together, and they looked like they didn't want to hurt each other—until Rahman landed a solid left early in the fourth. Rahman opened a cut on a cornered Barrett's left eyelid with a hard right in the fifth.

**Dibaba completes rare double**

HELSINKI, Finland—In Ethiopia, 5,000-meter world champion Tirunesh Dibaba is known as the "Crown Princess." After making history by becoming the first woman to complete a sweep of the 5,000 and 10,000 meter races on Saturday, it won't be long until she's coronated queen. Dibaba completed a long-distance double Saturday with a blistering last lap to lead an Ethiopian sweep of the top four places in the 5,000. No woman had won both the 5,000 and the 10,000 at one championship before. Dibaba won the 10,000 on the opening day last week.

**PG-13 OPENS AUG. 17**

"SHIVERS DOWN THE SPINE, A RACING HEART...ONE MUST SEE MOVIE"

FROM THE WRITER OF THE RING

# THE SKELETON KEY

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Kate Hudson Gena Rowlands Peter Sarsgaard and John Hurt

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## SPORTS

## ONSHIP

# Charges, ties Mickelson on top

They were at 6-under 204 and had lots of company.

Bjorn's record-tying round gave him a chance for redemption in a major. Defending champion Vijay Singh made 17 straight pars before a birdie from the bunker on the 18th for a 69, leaving him two shots behind. And even Tiger Woods could no longer be ruled out after cutting his 12-shot deficit in half with a 66.

Mickelson missed short birdie putts on the final two holes, both par 5s, his last chance to keep the lead to himself ending with a 6-foot attempt that caused him to buckle his knees when the ball grazed the edge of the cup.

He still managed a smile. "To gut it out and play the last 12 holes without a bogey, make that one birdie and still be in the lead is a huge success for the day," he said. "I struggled a little bit, but I fought hard to stay in the lead."

## PGA on ABC

The final day of the US PGA Championships will be shown today at 6:30 a.m. over ABC-5.

Highlights of the four-day tournament will be replayed from Tuesday to Friday within the week at 11 p.m. ABC has reserved its 11 p.m.-12



DAVIS Love III is eyeing his first win in two years.

AP

midnight time slot from Mondays to Fridays for golf shows and tournaments.

AP



Boxing as if neither wanted to hurt each other, Hasim Rahman (right) and Monte Barrett mix it up late in their match.

REUTERS

# Cardinals Lions; Stags play numbers

UA Cardinals will try to gain momentum of a recent win when they host the San Beda Lions in an NCAA basketball game at 1 p.m. today at the Astrodome.

| STANDINGS   | W  | L |
|-------------|----|---|
| Letran      | 10 | 0 |
| PCU         | 8  | 2 |
| Mapua       | 6  | 4 |
| SSC         | 5  | 5 |
| Perpetual   | 3  | 7 |
| San Beda    | 3  | 7 |
| St. Benilde | 3  | 7 |
| JRU         | 2  | 8 |

**GAMES TODAY**  
(Cuneta Astrodome)  
p.m.—Mapua vs San Beda (Srs)  
2:30 p.m.—SSC vs JRU (Jrs)  
4 p.m.—SSC vs JRU (Srs)

the St. Benilde. "I'm just hoping there will be a change this time because the games are crucial," said coach Horacio Lim. Sebastian Stags will also get a firm hold of the game when they go up against the cellar-dwelling Jose Rizal numbers at 4 p.m. With a 5-5 record, the Stags have a two-game cushion over the Knights scrambling for a spot in the Final Four. Those vying to unseat the San Beda Lions, who scored 10 upsets over defending champions PCU and San Sebastian. The undefeated Lions also made a statement for unbeaten Letran by beating the Knights, 68-44. *Jasmine W. Payo*

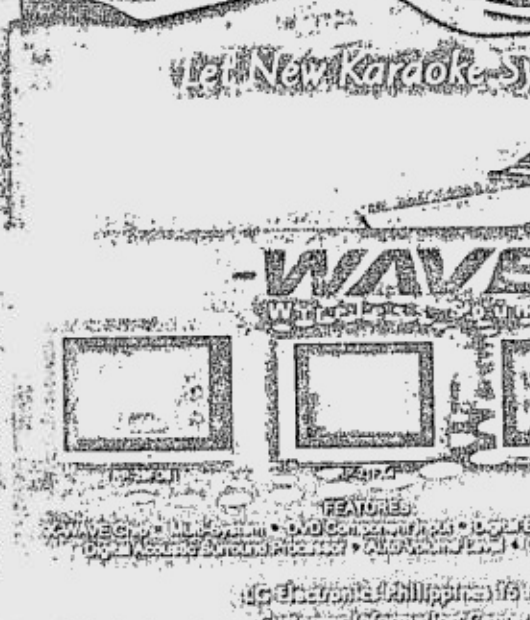
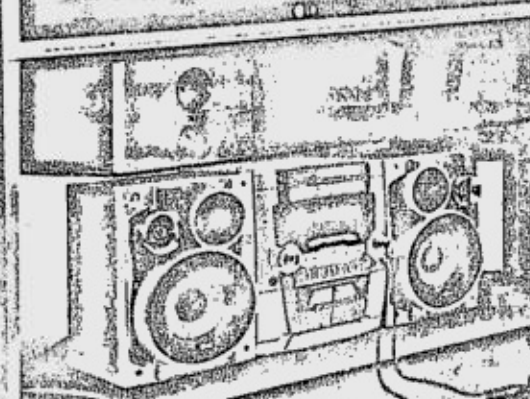
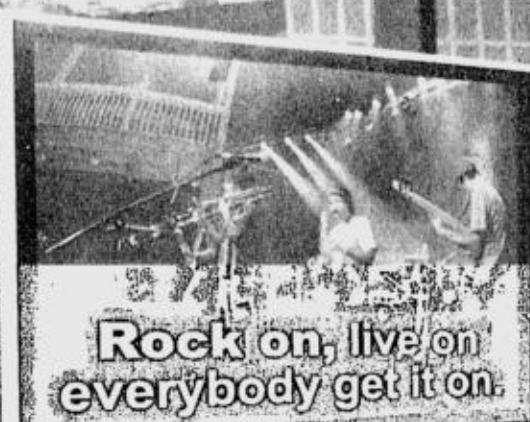


## PROMO MECHANICS:

1. This promo is open to all Metro Manila residents aged 18 years old & above. Promo period: August 12 to September 11, 2005
2. For a minimum of P100 worth of Shell Velocity in a single receipt purchase, you are entitled to join the promo. Simply write down your complete name, age, telephone number (if any), address and affix your signature at the back of the receipt. Drop this off at any Shell Select convenience stores in Metro Manila or at the following radio stations: Magic 89.9, K-Lite 103.5 (both at Suite 907, 9th Fl., Paragon Plaza, Edsa cor Reliance, Mandaluyong) and Wave 89.1 (at Suite 201, Strata 2000 Emerald Avenue Ortigas). Only receipts dated during the promo period qualifies as valid entries.
3. Four (4) travel packages (incl. of round trip airfare, hotel accommodation of 4 days/3 nights & Shanghai Grand Prix ticket) shall be raffled off.
4. Cut-off date for all entries is on September 11, 11PM.
5. All entries will be drawn by a Pilipinas Shell / JNT representative along with the DTI on September 14, 2005, 7pm at Aruba Bar, Metrowalk, Pasig City.
6. A participant can only win once.
7. Winners declared by Pilipinas Shell and its representatives, with the concurrence of DTI, are final.
8. Winners will be notified via registered mail.
9. A winners' list will be published in a newspaper of general circulation w/in two (2) weeks after the draw.
10. Prizes shall be redeemed at the Shell House, Valero St., Makati City, as per instructions in the Registered Mail.

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**For more information about Shell Velocity Formula One Race, check out our website at:**  
www.shellvelocity.com.ph

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**August 14:** Shell Select Station @ South Luzon Tollway  
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**August 31:** Shell Select Station @ South Luzon Tollway  
**September 1:** Shell Select Station @ South Luzon Tollway  
**September 2:** Shell Select Station @ South Luzon Tollway

**September 3:** Shell Select Station @ South Luzon Tollway  
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# EVENTS SCHEDULES PROMOS NOW SHOWING SM CINEMA

## SNEAK PREVIEW



**IT'S THE PRISONERS VS. THE GUARDS**

When former NFL player Paul Crewe was sent to prison, the warden forced him to transform a diverse group of inmates into a football team. The inmates unite and was surprised to find out who they beat for the home run, the guards themselves.

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

North EDSA  
Megamall  
Manila  
Sia Mesa  
Sucat

Be the first to watch on AUGUST 15 and 16 at the following branches:

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| the podium 633-8976                                                              | cebu (032) 231-3876                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 THE LONGEST YARD<br>12:50FS/01:20MF/03:50/06:20<br>08:20LFS/09:00L MF/10:55END | 1 STEALTH<br>12:05FS/12:50MF/02:30/04:50/07:10<br>09:10LFS/09:50L MF/11:25END        |
| 2 BEWITCHED<br>11:20FS/11:50MF/02:05/04:20/06:35<br>08:20LFS/09:00L MF/10:45END  | 2 THE ISLAND<br>12:05FS/12:50MF/02:30/04:50/07:10<br>09:10LFS/09:50L MF/11:25END     |
|                                                                                  | 3 THE GREAT RAID<br>11:20FS/11:50MF/02:05/04:20/06:35<br>08:20LFS/09:00L MF/10:45END |

**SM MEGAMALL**

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- 2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- 3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- 4 STEALTH
- 5 BEWITCHED
- 6 CRASH
- 7 WEDDING CRASHERS
- 8 THE LONGEST YARD
- 9 D' ANOTHERS
- 10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 11 THE GREAT RAID
- 12 THE ISLAND

**METRO MANILA**

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW**

- 1 FANTASTIC FOUR
- 2 ARAHAN
- 3 WEDDING CRASHERS
- 4 BEWITCHED
- 5 D' ANOTHERS
- 6 THE LONGEST YARD
- 7 THE GREAT RAID
- 8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 9 STEALTH
- 10 THE EYE INFINITY
- 11 IF ONLY
- 12 THE ISLAND

**SM NORTH EDSA**

- 1 BEWITCHED
- 2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 3 D' ANOTHERS
- 4 THE EYE INFINITY
- 5 THE WEDDING CRASHERS
- 6 STEALTH
- 7 THE LONGEST YARD
- 8 THE GREAT RAID

**SM CITY STA MESA**

- 1 THE GREAT RAID
- 2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 3 BEWITCHED
- 4 D' ANOTHERS
- 5 THE LONGEST YARD
- 6 THE EYE INFINITY
- 7 STEALTH
- 8 THE ISLAND
- 9 WEDDING CRASHERS
- 10 YEAR OF THE YAO

**SM CITY SOUTHMALL**

- 1 THE GREAT RAID
- 2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 3 THE LONGEST YARD
- 4 BEWITCHED
- 5 FANTASTIC FOUR
- 6 ARAHAN
- 7 WEDDING CRASHERS
- 8 STEALTH
- 9 D' ANOTHERS
- 10 THE EYE INFINITY

**SM CITY MANILA**

- 1 THE LONGEST YARD
- 2 BEWITCHED
- 3 THE ISLAND
- 4 THE GREAT RAID
- 5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 6 STEALTH
- 7 ARAHAN
- 8 IF ONLY
- 9 D' ANOTHERS
- 10 CRASH
- 11 WEDDING CRASHERS
- 12 THE EYE INFINITY

**SM CITY BICUTAN**

- 1 THE GREAT RAID
- 2 D' ANOTHERS
- 3 BEWITCHED
- 4 THE LONGEST YARD

**SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT**

- 1 THE LONGEST YARD
- 2 D' ANOTHERS
- 3 THE GREAT RAID
- 4 BEWITCHED

**SM SAN LAZARO**

- 1 THE LONGEST YARD
- 2 BEWITCHED
- 3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 4 ARAHAN
- 5 D' ANOTHERS
- 6 THE GREAT RAID

**SM CITY PAMPANGA**

- 1 STEALTH
- 2 ARAHAN
- 3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 4 THE EYE INFINITY
- 5 YEAR OF THE YAO
- 6 D' ANOTHERS

**SM CITY BACOR**

- 1 ARAHAN
- 2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 3 THE GREAT RAID
- 4 BEWITCHED
- 5 STEALTH
- 6 D' ANOTHERS
- 7 THE LONGEST YARD
- 8 THE ISLAND

**SM CITY DASMARINAS**

- 1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 2 D' ANOTHERS
- 3 YEAR OF THE YAO
- 4 THE EYE INFINITY

**SM CITY BAGUIO**

- 1 STEALTH
- 2 D' ANOTHERS
- 3 IF ONLY
- 4 THE MACHINIST

**SM CITY MARILAO**

- 1 IF ONLY
- 2 D' ANOTHERS
- 3 EVIL DEAD
- 4 ARAHAN

**SM CITY LUCENA**

- 1 NEW POLICE STORY
- 2 D' ANOTHERS
- 3 CAMPUS GHOST STORY
- 4 MONSTER-IN-LAW

**SM CITY CEBU**

- 1 STEALTH
- 2 THE ISLAND
- 3 THE GREAT RAID
- 4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
- 5 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
- 6 THE EYE INFINITY
- 7 D' ANOTHERS
- 8 THE MACHINIST

**SM CITY ILOILO**

- 1 EVIL DEAD
- 2 RESERVED
- 3 IF ONLY
- 4 D' ANOTHERS
- 5 YEAR OF THE YAO
- 6 STEALTH
- 7 RESERVED
- 8 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED

**SM CITY BATANGAS**

- 1 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
- 2 D' ANOTHERS
- 3 STEALTH
- 4 EVIL DEAD

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MTRCB: GP  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

3 THE LONGEST YARD  
MTRCB: PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

4 THE GREAT RAID  
MTRCB: PG-13  
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00 LMF

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1 THE GREAT RAID  
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PG-13

2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY  
12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00  
GP

3 BEWITCHED  
12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50  
GP

4 THE LONGEST YARD  
SNEAK PREVIEW  
1:05, 3:36, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00  
PG-13

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## Valle Verde tops Myan's in BCC finals

VALLE Verde capped a four-game sweep of the East leg qualifier of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Badminton Championship Year 2 with a rousing victory over Myan's in their championship duel yesterday at the West Drive courts in Pasig.

Elizabeth Ng and Nainy Ong bucked a slow start to demolish Norie Jane Aurelio and Wilma Francisco, 15-6, 15-1, in the ladies' doubles before Randy Villanueva and Robert Balanos secured the win for Valle Verde with a hard-fought 15-9, 13-15, 15-12 win over Angelo Pulido and Alex Bartolay in the men's doubles.

With the two wins, Valle Verde's mixed doubles pair of Ken Torres and Dina Guerrero didn't have to play their match against Aquilino dela Cruz and Ivy Silva.

The two finalists earned a return trip to the national finals of the Battle of the Courts on Oct. 1 and 2 at the Market! Market! at The Fort.

Co-presenting the tourney are Smart: Simply Amazing, Mizuno and INQUIRER Badminton. It is also supported by Citibank On-Line, Unilever and Wilson as the official shuttlecock. Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3 are the media partners.

A trip to Hong Kong Disneyland is in store for this year's national champion.

The eliminations now move to The Zone for the Central leg this weekend. The Mindanao and Visayas qualifiers will be played on Sept. 3-4, the South leg on Sept. 10-11 at Alabang Racquet Club and the North stage on Sept. 24-25 at Club 650.

In the morning crossover semifinals, Myan's swept Old Market Badminton Club, and Valle Verde blasted Buddies BC.

Aurelio-Francisco got Myan's going with a 15-9, 15-11 triumph over Tess Toy-Ginky Mariano and Pulido teamed up with Jimson Consignado to clinch the tie for their team by beating Dion Guanio-Gerry del Rosario, 15-4, 15-11.

Getting the two wins Valle needed against Buddies were Ng-Ong who downed Mitzi Bautista-Leah Manuel and Villanueva-Torres who beat Boyong Aquino-Jaime Bautista.

## Ozamiz five rips Baguio for 9th win

OZAMIZ CITY—Ozamiz Cotta virtually sealed the top spot in the Southern Conference of the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship Saturday by routing the SMB Tours/Viacom Cable-backed Baguio Lions, 83-67, at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

Dennis Cabigkis led a balanced scoring attack with 16 points as the Ozamiz cagers of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog streaked to their ninth win in 11 games in the tournament supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Axel, Molten, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products, Bayview Park Hotel, Holiday Plaza-Cebu and Prime Channel.

Over at the San Juan gym in Metro Manila, the KSK Food Products-backed Parañaque Jets of Vice Mayor Anjo Yllana snapped the two-game winning run of Bacchus/Harbour Centre by posting a decisive 84-76 victory.

It was the Jets' sixth win in 13 games. Bacchus/Harbour Centre sustained its fifth loss in six outings.

Larry Rodriguez starred for the Jets with 19 points and 11 rebounds, while former Laguna Spring Nani Epondulan paced Bacchus/Harbour with 23.

Ozamiz raced to a 27-11 lead after 10 minutes and 23 (38-15) early in the second quarter before Marlon Fontanilla fueled a 20-4 Baguio run that cut the deficit to nine, 44-35, at the break.



## BAP urged to show nationalism

IT IS INDEED refreshing to know that, in the interest of the country, some of our longtime basketball leaders have asked the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines to stop its continuing defiance of the Philippine Olympic Committee and support instead the new Philippine Basketball Federation, a cage body backed by the POC.

In a recent article by the PDI's Musong Castillo, former basketball official and now Cebu Rep. Eduardo Gullas urged the BAP to "stop fighting a lost cause" and "rally behind the new cage body if it wants to show nationalism." Gullas also asked the BAP to accept its expulsion from the POC and to give the PBF all the room to perform its duty as the new governing body for Philippine basketball.

Gullas, who was BAP official for the Visayas during the administration of two-time Fiba president Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat, was tapped to head the PBF, but he begged off at the last minute, citing old age and his work in Congress. In his place, Mauricio "Moying" Martelino, longtime secretary general of the Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC), was unanimously elected president.

The PBF was admitted by the POC as the newest legitimate national sports association (NSA) last July 27 after the BAP was expelled from the POC by an overwhelming majority in the general assembly for reneging on an agreement (with the POC) on the formation of a strong and well-trained national team.

The POC was very concerned with the recent embarrassing performances of BAP-supported national teams in local and international tournaments, so much so that many

### CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Inigo



asked for drastic reforms in the BAP that was then headed by Tiny Lital (the BAP is now headed by former Sen. Joey Lina), secretary general Graham Lim, who is facing deportation, and team coach Boyzle Zamar.

"It was an anticipated reaction," said a basketball diehard on the call to revamp the BAP. While I feel that the expulsion of the 70-year-old BAP was harsh, this corner shares the observation of many that the POC could not be faulted for its decision. The BAP can only blame itself. Its continued defiance of the POC, the highest sports authority in the Philippines, has forced the POC to wield the axe and decide that enough is enough.

As a result, Fiba banned the Philippines from international basketball tournaments, including the coming Southeast Asian Games where the Filipino cagers are the defending champions. Fiba said it would also investigate the process by which BAP was expelled.

Martelino went to Hong Kong recently to personally hand documents—which led to the organization of the PBF—to Fiba president Carl Ching Meng Ky. He was accompanied by POC media bureau chief Joey Romasanta and Go Teng Kok, special assistant to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

## NCA, PCAP stag derbies slated at Makati Coliseum

THE PRESTIGIOUS National Cocker Association (NCA) and the Pinoy Cocker Association of the Philippines (PCAP) will stage big stag derbies at the Makati Coliseum starting next month. The NCA, headed by Gov. Ito Yfanes, has lined up 7-stag derbies on

Sept. 6 and 8, Sept. 20 and 22, Oct. 4 and 6, Oct. 18 and 20, Oct. 25 and 27, Nov. 8 and 10 and on Nov. 15, 17 and 19—the Grand National 8-Tag Derby. Nine 5-stag events will be hosted by PCAP every Monday, beginning Sept. 5. Other schedules are Sept. 12, 19 and 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 29. Meanwhile, the annual RL Bates 7-Tag Derby kicks off at the same venue on Aug. 29 and 31 with Richard Bates as host.

## Virtually no surprises in rookie draft

From page A25

A 6-foot-5 forward out of Eckerd College in the US NCAA Division 2, the 190-lb Washington was the hands-down choice of the Express even before the rookie selection process started at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal.

"I was really nervous but I'm glad that it's finally over," said Washington, 22, who recently led Welcoat Paints to a championship crown in the Philippine Basketball League.

"I heard they (Express) were considering me as the top pick, but it never really sank in until my name was called."

The Express also grabbed UAAP and PBL Most Valuable Player Mac Cardona of La Salle (fifth overall) and made the slam-dunking Nino Canalela of University of the East the sixth pick.

Sta. Lucia Realty used its No. 2 overall pick on Alex Cabagnot, a 6-foot-1 guard from University of Hawaii-Hilo in the US NCAA Division II, while Coca-Cola, armed with the third overall choice, snagged Dennis Miranda.

"Back in the States, I play the point," said Cabagnot, who impressed scouts with his dribbling and shooting abilities. "But I will play whatever position my coach wants me to play."

Miranda, a 6-foot playmaker from Far Eastern University, played for the national team in the Jones Cup, his impressive stint making him a worthy backup for ace guard Johnny Abarrientos.

"I'm speechless. Johnny (Abarrientos) is my idol since I began picking up the sport," said the 22-year-old Miranda.

Purefoods selected 6-foot-5 Jordan Salvador as the fourth overall choice.

"If there's one team in the PBA I would love to play with, it's none other than Purefoods," said St. Benilde's Salvador, a PBL MVP.

Wingman Michael Holper, who played for Air Philippines in the PBL, went to Barangay Ginebra (seventh), while San Miguel Beer surprisingly picked UE's Dean Paolo Hubalde, son of Hall of Famer, Freddie Hubalde of Crispa fame.

Red Bull wrapped up the first round by grabbing NCAA MVP Leo Najorda of San Sebastian. In the second round, Sta. Lucia picked FEU's Cesar Catli, Coca-Cola selected Neil Ranases from University of Visayas and St. Benilde's Al Magpayo, Purefoods got La Salle's BJ Manalo and Red Bull snatched Ateneo's Larry Fonacier.

Alaska grabbed 6-foot-7 Mark Kong, Sta. Lucia got NU's Rey Mendoza and Red Bull picked 6-6 Paolo Bugia of Ateneo. Talk 'N Text, picking last, chose Mark Macapagal of San Sebastian.

A total of 18 players were selected, making the rest of the 49 undrafted players free agents. The 18 rookies will have to sign a contract with their mother ballclubs within seven working days. Otherwise, they will become restricted free agents.

"With the rookies we picked plus the other players in the team, we will now have a surplus of players in the wings and in the slot," said Air21 president and Express manager Lito Alvarez.

The Express already have Renren Ritualo, Gary David, Ronald Tubid and Wesley Gonzales in the wings while Marc Pingris and Raniel De Ocampo duplicate the roles of Washington and Canalela.

Air21 head coach Bo Peralos said at least five of the 16 Express players will be unloaded.

Peralos said three teams have dangled tempting offers to acquire Washington, but the former UP Maroons mentor stressed that the top pick fills the Express' need for a big man.

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## SPORTS

# Pascua, Butac top Ilocos race anew

LAOAG CITY—Reynaldo Pascua and Vilma Butac yesterday retained their respective Ilocos Region Milo Marathon crowns virtually unchallenged at the Ilocos Norte Provincial Capitol building here.

Pascua completed the 21-km course in one hour, nine minutes and 28 seconds to claim his second straight title over Ilocos Norte teammates Randy Basilio, who was second in 1:13:29, and Rabin Dalog, who placed third in 1:14:40.

Butac, a graduating Education student at the Mariano Marcos State University, clocked 1:45:40, handily beating Flordeliza Donos (1:51:44) and Marby Bucuo (1:53:29).

The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21K run qualified to the National Finals set on

Oct. 9 in Metro Manila.

Pascua placed fifth overall in the 42K marathon finals last year while the 20-year-old Butac, a resident of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, finished seventh.

Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) training director Michael Keon, also the local organizer of the race, fired the gun that sent off the 6,985 runners in the event held in partnership with Bayview Park Manila Hotel, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

James Galo (15:56) topped the men's 5K fun run followed by Romeo Dalog (16:10) and Noel Garcia (18:33). The women's race was ruled by Jhelly Ann Saguitan (24:08), Richelle Pascua (25:24) and Christina Saguitan (26:38).

# Untroubled voyage for Being There

By Edwin Villanueva, Contributor

BEING There found the going smoothly and went on to crush her rivals yesterday in the fifth leg of the 2005 Imported Stakes Series at the Santa Ana Park.

It could have been a record run over the seldom-disputed 1,800-meter distance had star jockey Jonathan Hernandez asked his mount for more juice as the Aussie mare charged down the wire.

Sensing the job was done after Being There built a six-length cushion at the top of the stretch, Hernandez took it easy on the outstanding favorite, who eventually tied the fastest time for the route.

Being There, a five-year-old daughter of Distorted Humor out of Fanfare Bubbles, stopped the clock at 1 minute 52.6 seconds (13.5-22.5-24-24-28), matching Wild Orchid's feat during the fourth leg.

"Alam ko kanya na kaya di na ako nagbibiro (I know it's in the bag for her so I found no need to urge her vigorously)," said Hernandez after nailing down his third straight victory on board last year's Ninoy Cup champion.

Being There bagged P270,000 after the triumph that primed her up for the Chino Roces Freedom Cup on Aug. 21.

Hermie Esguerra's Last Snip and coupled bet Marquee finished 2-3, while stablemates Pine Needles and Dream Cross arrived fourth and fifth, respectively.

Being There handily drew away from Pine Needles at the far turn even as Last Snip moved in to secure the battle for second spot.

# No ticking bomb, says Mandaluyong mayor

THE BULLETIN'S Nick Giongco, saying he has not been screened off from Manny Pacquiao's training camp in California, filed a detailed, full-length report yesterday. Our apologies to the competent and hardworking scribe who, we were told, had been initially banned from the Pacquiao camp in Los Angeles.

Inclement weather has forced the INQUIRER team to move its trip to Villasis, Pangasinan—to deliver collected donations to former national cager Romy Cabading, a hit-and-run victim—for next Saturday. The outpouring of support has surpassed initial expectations.

What cannot wait is this urgent clarification from the Office of the Mayor of Mandaluyong City, Boyet Gonzales, who explains the incident behind the death of my *kumpadre*, German Macalanda, 73, last month in this letter:

Dear Mr. Trinidad,

I've paid a visit to the Macalanda family. I have been looking into the matter. But, as with most investigations, one has to deal with two contending versions—one from the aggrieved and the other from the subject of the complaint—and I am a bit wary of issuing any final pronouncement in the absence of a careful study of the matter.

I am still awaiting word from the Macalandas to whom I said that, after their patriarch's burial, my office will facilitate a meeting between them and the Anti-Vice unit. However, if they would be inclined to file a case against our operatives prior to that meeting, I am not one to stand in their way.

I hope you will care to hear from me what details I have, based on the report of the Anti-Vice unit.

The unfortunate incident happened after the Anti-Vice unit went to Barangay Mabini-J. Rizal to look into the report of alleged illegal gambling in the area. The team headed back to the office and took the opportunity of conducting routine patrol operations. Along the way, they decided to pass by Vergara and chanced upon a group of about four or five men inside a compound. On a hunch, the team headed by PO3 Apolinario Atienza alighted and to, their surprise, the group scampered in all directions. They chased the men and one of the members of the unit passed through a pathway and nabbed Noel Dizon just as he was exiting another alley. Dizon was said to have shouted for help, and the neighbors, including Mr. German Macalanda, started closing in on them.

PO3 Atienza was, by that time, confronting Dizon who was resisting arrest. Suddenly, a young man holding a shovel accosted PO3 Atienza, shouting among others that they (the Anti-Vice unit) will not be able to arrest Dizon. PO3 Atienza declared that, at this point, he placed his hand on his gun which was still holstered but did not draw the same. The late German Macalanda apparently shouted at the young boy and berated him for his behavior and it was at this time that he slumped on a chair clutching his chest. Seeing this, PO3 Atienza instructed his men to bring Mr. Macalanda to the hospital, accompanied by a daughter and PO3 Eugenio.

After Mr. Macalanda was brought to the hospital, Barangay chairwoman Lily dela Cruz arrived at the scene and asked everyone to proceed to the barangay hall. There in her office, chairwoman dela Cruz, PO3 Atienza and Dizon were in discussion when suddenly, Mr. Allan Macalanda barged in and punched PO3 Atienza. In the commotion that ensued, Dizon

BARE EYE



Recab Trinidad

managed to escape amid the crowd that was gathered. Charges for direct assault, by the way, have been filed against Allan Macalanda.

The facts that I have also initially gathered are these: one, that Mr. Noel Dizon has already been arrested twice before this incident for the same offense. In all three (counting this chance arrest) his stated reason is that he was bringing the collected bets to an OTB station. When asked where, he cannot say. This confirms your statement that indeed, Mr. Dizon has been collecting bets. The ruta, though, was a convenient excuse in all three arrests. But if what Dizon and his group were doing were legitimate, why did they have to scamper at the sight of the Anti-Vice unit?

The incident was a chance encounter—the culprits caught in *flagrante delicto*, thus warrants were not available, much less was the opportunity to coordinate with the barangay authorities. Surely, one cannot have the chance to coordinate with the barangay in such an instance. I pressed PO3 Atienza and his team on whether they indeed forcibly entered the house, "upturned pots in the kitchen" in search of evidence and they replied in the negative. Again, let me say this is just one side of the question and that the other would have to be ascertained later in the meeting which I offered to the Macalandas.

Please note that our Anti-Vice unit, along with other civilian law enforcement groups such as traffic enforcement, have been principally created to complement the Philippine National Police which, for reasons of manpower shortage, are unable to fully deal with law enforcement matters in the city. Our city provides the resources needed by these civilian law enforcement units for the plain and simple reason that the maintenance of peace and order is a responsibility we must not be remiss in.

I would not and I am not condoning the actions of the Anti-Vice unit that will be found detrimental to the public. At this time, I am also not clearing them of any culpability, as I still have to finish a thorough investigation on the matter. Suffice it to say that I would like to convey to you my initial findings on the matter, lest the public be impressed that I am "toying with a time bomb."

My commitment to ridding our city of illegal and socially aberrant activities such as gambling and drug abuse within the period entrusted to me as city mayor stays and will be pursued without let-up. May I also take this opportunity to point out that prior to your column being printed, one of the major gambling kingpins in the city, a certain Boy A, had been arrested by the Anti-Vice unit on the strength of previously issued warrants of arrest. He is now detained at the city jail. And mind you, these campaigns are the results of my commitment to public service, and not simply because "gusto kong magpakita (I want to show off)." I do not discharge the duties and responsibilities of my office for show, or for just trying to score brownie points (or pogi points in the lingo). Within the bounds of the law, I will fulfill my duties no matter who gets caught.

Very truly yours,

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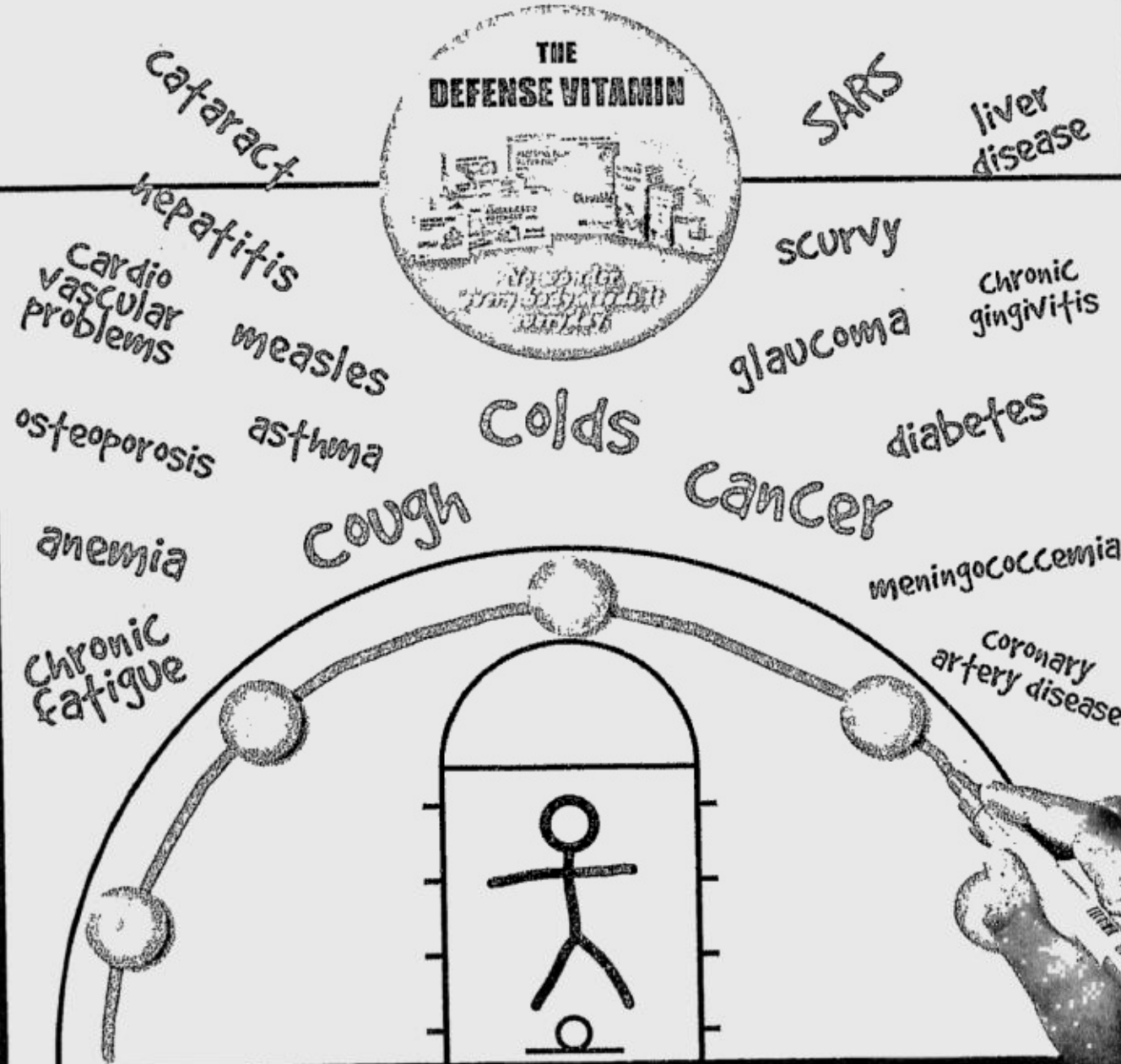
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## Lyceum, St. Scho score in WNCAA

LYCEUM of the Philippines opened its title-retention bid yesterday in the WNCAA seniors basketball tournament with a 63-42 win over newcomer AMA Computer University, while St. Scholastica's College dealt host Emilio Aguinaldo College-Manila its second straight defeat, 65-58, at the EAC gym.

St. Scho likewise notched its

first win as EAC slumped to a 0-2 card.

Centro Escolar University spoiled the debut of another new member, World Citi Colleges, with a 93-59 rout.

In junior play, defending champion De La Salle-Zobel frustrated St. Scho, 68-46, while RTU pounded San Beda-Alabang, 54-9.



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 **Goldilocks**  
How Thoughtful. How Pinay.



## BY JESS ABREÑA



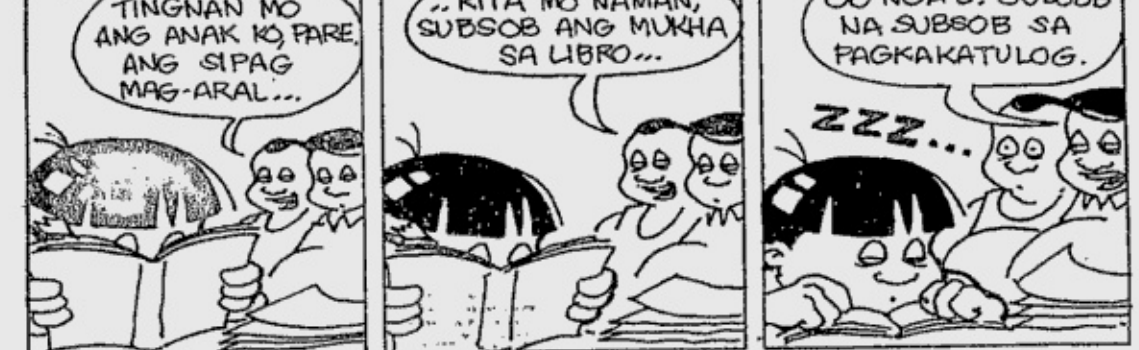
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## BY PATRICK McDONNELL



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## BY FRANCIS DRAKE

 **VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): That vague, troubled feeling you've had lately (almost as if you were walking in quicksand) is over as of today. Now you feel more confident because you're on surer ground.



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 SD NAMAN





FILIPINA Julie Danao-Salkin as Yoko to Will Chase's John in "Lennon."

### US critic on Cesar: a 'forcible actor'

LOS ANGELES—"The Great Raid" got mixed reviews from US film critics when it opened Friday. But the good news is that whenever the American movie reviewers made an effort to mention Cesar Montano, they showered him with favorable notices.

From Roger Ebert, writing for Chicago Sun-Times and www.rogerebert.com: "The Great Raid" has the look and feel of a good war movie you might see on cable late one night, perhaps starring Robert Mitchum, Robert Ryan or Lee Marvin. It has been made with the confidence that the story itself is the point, not the flashy graphics. The film is unique in giving full credit to the Filipino fighters who joined the Rangers and made the local logistics possible by enlisting the secret help of local farmers and villagers (their ox carts were employed to carry prisoners too weak to walk). The Filipinos are led by Capt. Juan Pajota (Cesar Montano), a forcible local actor who steps into the Hollywood cast and adds to its authenticity and sense of mission."

Chicago Tribune's Michael Esposito: "Benjamin Bratt plays ranger commander Lt. Col. Henry Mucci with enigmatic grace, issuing orders with confidence and taking quiet pride in his men... But the Americans aren't going alone; at their side are Filipino guerrillas led by Capt. Pajota (Cesar Montano, a Filipino star who was eager to show the part his people played in the mission) and Capt. Joson (Ebong Joson, playing his own grandfather)."

Robert Koehler of Variety, one of Hollywood's "bibles," panned the movie but favorably cited Cesar: "... out of their element are leads Benjamin Bratt, James Franco and Joseph Fiennes, who, in various ways, never manage to viscerally connect with their characters' dilemmas or strengths... Fiennes adopts what's now become his patented 100-yard stare for times when the script fails him. Thesps (actors) in costume designer Lizzy Gardiner's good civilian garb ironically come across as more believable and gutsier, such as (Connie) Nielsen and (Natalie) Mendoza, while (Cesar) Montano creditably holds up the Filipino side of the battle."

Sacramento Bee's Carla Meyer also praised the Pinoy actor: "Cesar Montano imbues his character, the Filipino military leader, with quiet authority and a sense of national pride." **Ruben Nepales**

### New Lennon musical

NEW YORK—A new musical about John Lennon was to open in New York over the weekend and the cast and director were hoping a major overhaul since it was first seen in San Francisco would win over audiences and sniping critics.

A 10-day delay to the opening of "Lennon" to allow last-minute changes has only fueled the rumor mill, with Lennon's widow Yoko Ono coming in for some harsh jibes.

"The widow Lennon is up to her old tricks, undermining last-ditch efforts to save the seriously flawed bio musical about her late husband at every turn," the New York Post said last week, reporting trouble at the production. Ono, an artist and musician who married Lennon in 1969, controls the rights to the former Beatle's songs and has been closely involved in the show since it was first put to her nearly seven years ago by director Don Scardino.

"It's tough; John Lennon is a huge icon... everybody has their own expectation of how to present the story of John Lennon," Scardino said in an interview ahead of Sunday's opening night, attributing skepticism about the show to enduring resentment from Beatles fans who disliked Ono.

Filipina Julie Danao-Salkin plays Yoko to Will Chase's John in the musical. **Reuters**

### Paula stays with 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES—"American Idol" host Paula Abdul will remain with the Fox TV series after an investigation found no proof that she had an affair with a contestant or helped him on the talent show, the network said Friday.

Lawyers retained to investigate claims by former contestant Corey Clark of a sexual relationship with Abdul could not substantiate his allegations, Fox said.

"Paula Abdul, therefore, can continue as a judge on 'American Idol,'" the network and series producers said in a statement. **AP**

## And Joseph ...

From page A2-1

waiting in the wings.

"Sandy and I have been together for more than a year now," he said. "We came out in the open [only recently] to avoid intrigues."

Fans who sought a scapegoat for the breakup of the Sandara-Hero tandem, made Joseph out as the culprit.

But he claimed that Sandy and Hero had a falling out after they made the movie "Can This Be Love," and it wasn't because of him. He also said his and Sandy's parents had met.

"When Sandy left for Korea [last April]," Joseph related, "my parents and I sent them off at the airport."

He admitted he was missing Sandara. "But she'll be back soon," he said.

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| <b>LONGEST YARD PG13</b><br>12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 | <b>CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY GP</b><br>12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10 | <b>BEWITCHED GP</b><br>12:55, 3:15, 5:35, 7:55, 10:15    |

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# 'The Great Raid' dramatizes Filipinos' bravery

FINALLY, after a number of deferment, "The Great Raid" has opened in Metro Manila theaters. The war drama dramatizes the rescue during World War II of more than 600 American soldiers from a POW concentration camp in Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija.

Despite the fact that the movie wasn't shot in the Philippines, it manages to capture the look and atmosphere of the wartime period in this country.

John Dahl's film is an efficient war drama that tells its story clearly, and limns its characters so well that it's easy to empathize with them.

## Low point

The only low point in this regard is the romantic subplot involving an American prisoner and a nurse in the underground who risks her life to smuggle medicines for the POWs in the concentration camp.

The subject is so sketchy that viewers can't get a strong handle on it. But the scenes set in the

guerrilla underground do underscore the bravery, not just of the armed guerrillas, but of the Filipino civilians who dared to fight the enemy in their own even more courageous ways.

More overtly, the film dramatizes the impressive bravery of the Filipino by highlighting the significant contribution of the guerrilla force led by the character played by Cesar Montano to the success of the raid.

## Too efficient

The film develops well for the most part, but after a while, viewers get the impression that it's too efficiently produced. Due to its rather predictable progression and staging, it ends up feeling rather dated, like a war drama shot decades ago.

But this impression fades away once the raid itself is staged. The rescue of the POWs by both American and Filipino combatants is excitingly recreated.

It's a long section of the film, but it's presented

## VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

Due to predictable staging, the film feels dated in parts

so dramatically that viewers' excitement and involvement don't flag. Would that the rest of the movie were so effectively vivified...

The film would also have ended up as a less vividly melodramatic production if its main villain, the Japanese camp commandant, hadn't been so relentlessly evil.

And there were too many prisoners who were given their own subplots for the production to handle well. As a result, the movie's focus kept shifting, and thematic initiatives were started and then summarily dropped. Some of the characters did provide welcome texture and complexity, but these potential plus factors were shunted to the sidelines as new concerns presented themselves.

Happily, a number of characterizations managed to rise above the madding throng—James Franco as the captain who led the raid, Connie Nielsen as the courageous nurse who wore her heart on her sleeve, and Cesar Montano as the Filipino guerrilla leader who dared to stand up to his American counterparts.

## Mr & Ms magazine's August issue

FANS of this magazine and Anne Curtis are in for a treat in the August issue of Mr & Ms maga-

zine. Now a 100-page monthly, Mr & Ms features the hot couple of ABS-CBN's "Kampanerang Kuban" on the cover, in a mystical, fantasy look inspired by the magazine's new body, mind and spirit theme.

In other articles, Emily Abrera shares the second installment of her personal account on her conversations with her deceased husband, Caloy. Haydee Yorac reveals her near-death experience. Supreme Court Justice Adolfo Azcuna and wife Maraisun relate their encounter with lost spirits.

Imelda Cojuangco's miraculous recovery from illness is featured in another piece. Psychic Georgina Solina looks into the President's future. Jaime Licaucio writes about Asian mysticism.

Also read about the sacredness of sex, a fun page on Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's sexual compatibility, Jaime Bulatao, S.J. on hypnotic communication, Doris Trinidad's "Confessions of a Closet Mystic," duwendes in the gardens of a posh village, a Muslim healer named Warka, a directory of psychic services, Aida Sevilla-Mendoza's ghost story with a twist, columns for gays and lesbians, more articles on the spiritual quest of Miguel de Benavides, of angels and prayers, Poli and Josephine Castillo on transcendental meditation—and much more!

## Interactive show on Nickelodeon

"U-PICK Live!" is the Nickelodeon Channel's new interactive show, where you can participate in live polls and chats, request for music videos, and watch your favorite programs via SMS and online. The show is co-hosted by Noel dela Rosa and Brigitte Remy-Yee.

Every weekend starting Aug. 20 at 1 and 8:30 p.m., "Romeo" will telecast new episodes. The live-action comedy features aspiring rapper and basketball star Romeo Millier.

And starting today, let 10-year-old Timmy Turner take you on an adventure with the help of Cosmo and Wanda's magic tricks in "The Fairly Odd Parents."

## 'In Kiliti-cal Condition'

LEO Martinez, Nanette Inventor and Jon Santos' political comedy revue, "In Kiliti-cal Condition," is currently being performed in the United States. Schedule: Aug. 14, at Ichiban in San Francisco. Aug. 20 and 21, at Meadowlands in New Jersey for the Philippine Expo. For performances in the Philippines, call 721-4405, local 106.

## Ayen is back

AFTER a short respite, Ayen Munji is back in the swing of things in show biz. Tomorrow, she will be hosting a corporate show at the Manila Hotel. And on Oct. 10, she will be awarded as one of the Best-Dressed women in the Philippines. The Philippine Cancer Society benefit will be held at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental. Call Backroom at 435-1108.

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## OFW remittances surged 32% in June

### INDICATORS CURRENCIES



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**P 55.645 = \$ 1**

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2005

**Y 109.56 = \$ 1**

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 12, 2005

**GOLD: \$448.80-449.30**

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 12, 2005

### STOCK MARKET

#### Investors seen tracking earnings, VAT

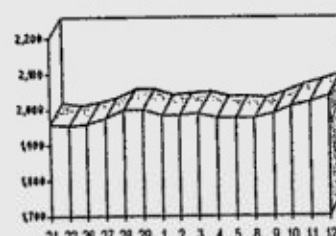
INVESTORS are expected to continue tracking corporate earnings this week and await the Supreme Court's ruling on the value-added tax law, a crucial reform aimed at easing the government's fiscal woes.

"If (the VAT) issue is resolved in favor of the government, this would be positive for the government's fiscal program. However, investors will also watch out how the VAT law will impact consumer demand," BPI Trade wrote in a weekly report.

For the week, the main index rose 62.50 points or 3.16 percent to 2,038.10 as investors were encouraged by strong earnings of many listed companies and expectations that the Supreme Court would uphold the constitutionality of the VAT law, BPI Trade noted.

Investors are also seen to accumulate bank stocks on news of possible mergers.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez



### Brings 6-month inflows to \$4.9B

By Doris C. Dumlaog

REMITTANCES from the country's migrant workers surged by 32.1 percent in June to \$935 million from a year ago due to the higher deployment of skilled workers and improved access to banking channels, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the sustained double-digit growth in overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) remittances had brought the first-semester inflows to \$4.9 billion, which was 21.5 percent higher than the year-ago level of \$4 billion.

Bulk of the fund transfers came from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

Citing data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Tetangco said the total number of deployed Filipino workers for the first semester rose by 6.8 percent to 527,573.

Land-based workers increased by 6.1 percent to 402,332 from a year ago while deployed sea-

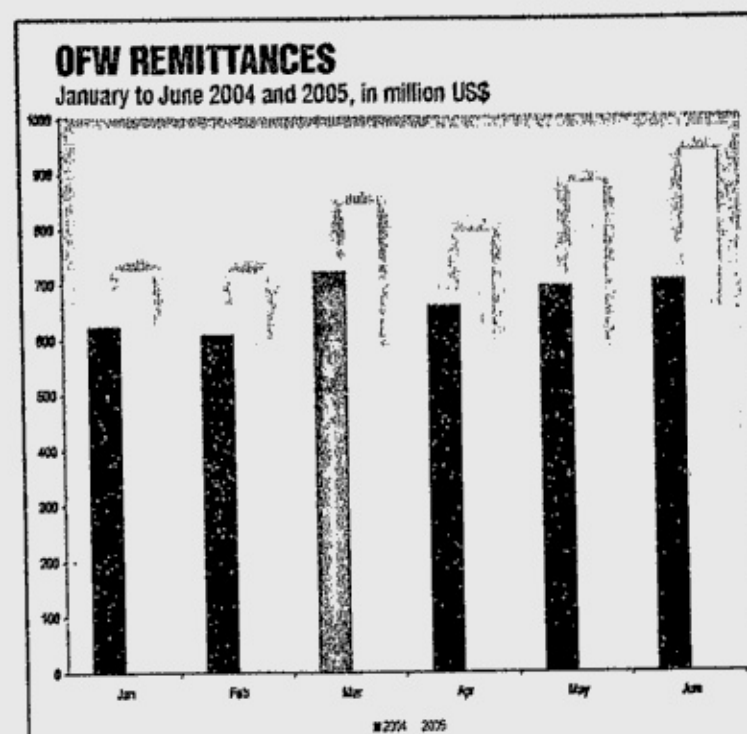
based workers rose by 9.2 percent to 125,241.

"The demand for both land- and sea-based Filipino workers has continuously grown on account of the value-enhancing training provided to local workers prior to deployment (such as multi-lingual proficiency, information technology literacy) to develop and hone their capabilities as well as boost their competitiveness and marketability," Tetangco said.

The top destinations of OFWs were Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, the United Arab Emirates and Japan.

It also helped that higher paid and professional workers were being deployed, Tetangco said.

OFW/B8



### WHAT'S INSIDE

**MetroPac**  
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to 9.2% /B5

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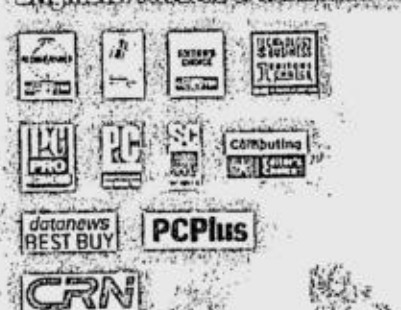
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## The underground economy and Jueteng

WITH THE prominence of the illegal numbers game jueteng in the news these past weeks, it has emerged that not a negligible portion of our population actually derives employment and livelihood from the activity. It is a de facto industry where tens of billions of pesos are estimated to change hands in any given year. And because the bulk of the business comes from the hard-earned savings of the lower income groups, it is often pointed out to be proof that there is in fact wealth among the poor. The challenge has always been how to channel this wealth into more beneficial pursuits that do not involve collateral damage on our people's values, ethics and morality.

### Informal vs. underground

Jueteng is just one among many kinds of underground economic activities that are presumed to be excluded from the economic statistics regularly reported by government. Economists use the more technical term "informal sector" to refer to these types of economic activities that do not pay taxes, do not submit regular reports to the government, and even routinely violate certain rules or laws on doing business like the minimum wage, prohibition on child labor, safety and sanitary standards, and so on. Your friendly neighborhood manicurist or fishball vendor is part of it just as much as the drug-pushers, prostitutes and big-time smugglers are. When we hear the term "underground" economy, it's the latter we usually think of. But a big part of the informal sector is not necessarily into patently illegal pursuits. They just don't get easily captured in the statistics, as they may not even be keeping any formal records to begin with. That is, not all informal sector activities are necessarily "underground" activities in the sense of being illegal; the latter is only a subset of the former.

Every economy, whether developed or developing, has a significant informal sector. A 2002

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Cielito F. Habito



World Bank Study estimated its size in 104 countries, with Georgia (of the former Soviet Union) topping the list at 67.3 percent of GDP and Canada at the bottom with only 3 percent. The estimate for the Philippines, which is 22nd on the list, is 43.4 percent. Interestingly, Thailand is even higher (9th) on the list with 52.6 percent, while Malaysia and Indonesia are farther down with 31.1 percent and 19.4 percent respectively. India has 23.1 percent, China 13.1 percent, Japan 11.3 percent, and the US 8.8 percent. In Latin America, Peru has 59.9 percent, Colombia 39.1 percent, and Mexico 30.1 percent. A note of caution, though: differing estimation methodologies probably limits the usefulness of comparing these numbers across countries.

### How we measure it

How do we estimate the size of our informal sector? Our two statistics czars, Romy Virola of the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) and Bobbie Erieta of the National Statistics Office (NSO) explain to me the approach as follows:

The NSO's Annual Survey of Establishments (ASE) yields a measure of total employment in the "organized" production sector, and also makes it possible to calculate average output per worker broken down into the major sectors of the economy. Meanwhile, the quarterly Labor Force Statistics (LFS) from NSO and the Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics (BLES)—which is based on household interviews—provides data on total employment, whether in the organized (formal) or unorganized (informal) sectors. The difference between

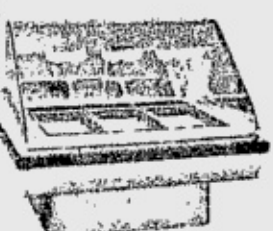
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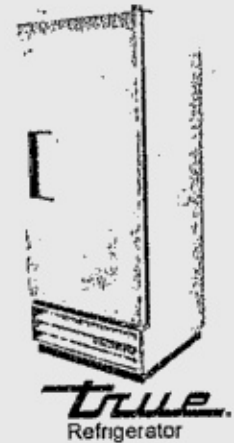
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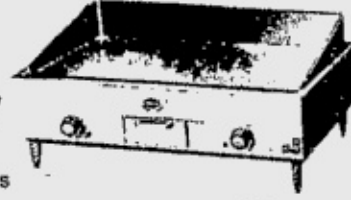
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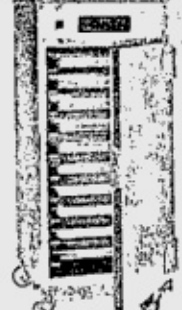
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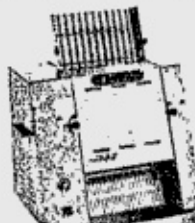
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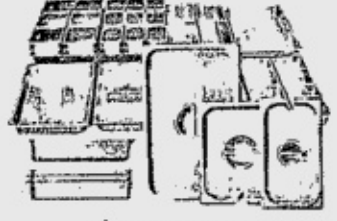
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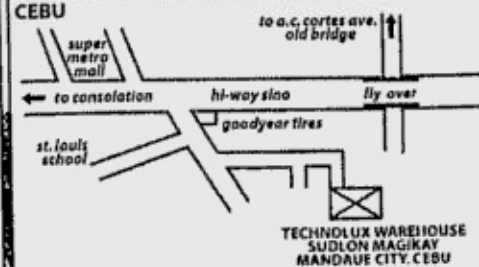
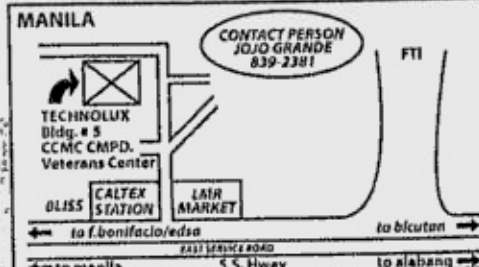
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# MetroPac keen on bidding for Napocor assets

## As it diversifies into infrastructure business

By Clarissa S. Batino

METRO Pacific Corp., a subsidiary of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., is seriously looking at the transmission and generating assets of National Power Corp. in line with the company's strategy to diversify into infrastructure development.

Metro Pacific chair Manuel Pangilinan said the company was still evaluating whether it would make a bid for the transmission assets, now under National Transmission Corp., or Napocor's power plants.

Investors are not allowed to bid for both the transmission assets and power plants as specified by the law. They have to choose between buying the power-generating plants and vying for the long-term management of the network of high-voltage lines now owned by Transco.

Metro Pacific, he said, would likely organize a consortium with other groups because power projects required huge investments.

Metro Pacific president Jose Maria Lim said the company was looking at "specific opportunities in the energy, mining and consumer sectors."

Lim said progress had been made in the area of toll road.

Pangilinan said the problem with investing in the power sector was the uncertainty on the government's privatization plans.

"They have not said until now when the bidding for these Napocor assets take place would be held," he said.

Debt-saddled Napocor must sell more than 30 power plants and the management of the \$3-billion transmission assets to pay-off obligations, a key measure in bringing down power rates. The cost of electricity in the Philippines is the sixth highest in Asia.

The government started selling power-generating assets in March 2004. It had sold on six so far, with proceeds amounting to \$566.95 million or P31.75 billion.

"Power is a big sector. We are talking with other parties for potential partnership because it will require a big investment," he said.

Four groups reportedly tried to negotiate last year with Transco for the management of



PANGILINAN

its assets. These companies submitted an offer of \$1.9 billion, \$2.5 billion, \$2.8 billion and \$3.4 billion. But the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. changed its mind and decided to privatize these assets through a bidding.

Electricity Generating Technology of Thailand, the second biggest listed firm, is in talks with three to four Filipino firms to make a bid for the high-voltage business of Napocor, according to its Philippine representative Asiselo Gonzaga.

Egat and its Filipino partners offered the government \$3.4 billion last October for the long-term management of the transmission business.

Aside from Egat, those believed to have made an offer for the transmission assets were the group of Japan's Tokyo Electric Corp., US-based Trans-Electric and San Miguel Corp. with Morgan Stanley; First Pacific Co. Ltd. and Trans-Grid of Australia; and Hydro Quebec and SNC Lavalin.

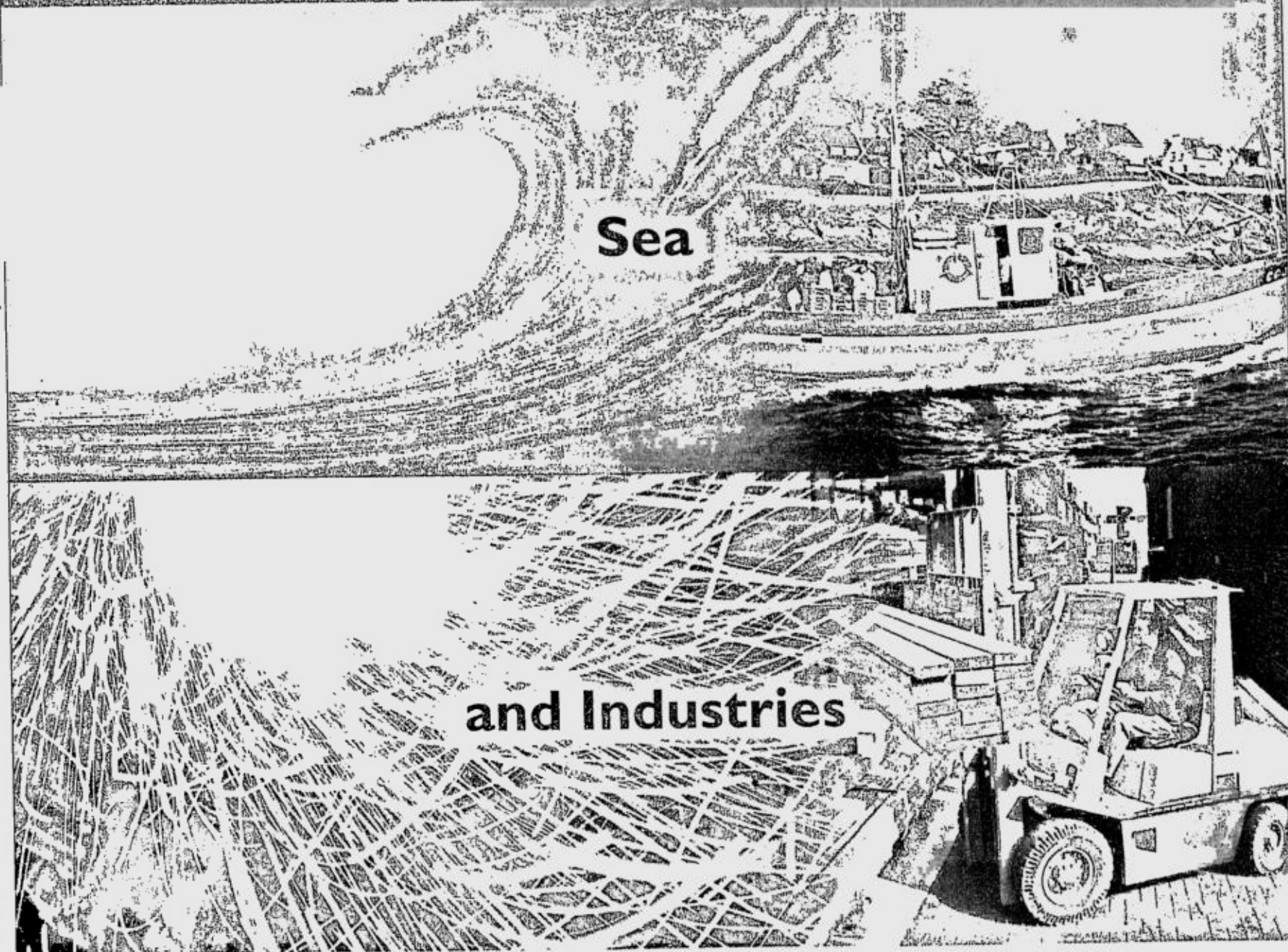
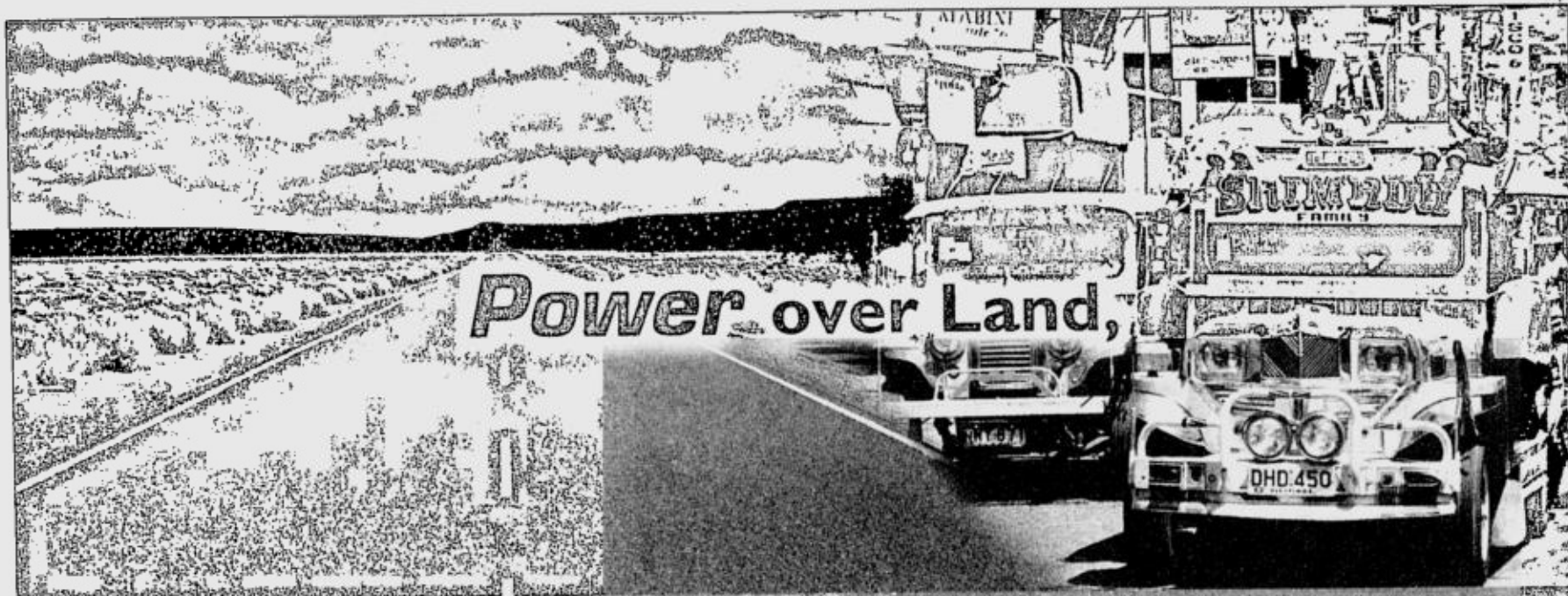
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## Landco ties up with Escuderos to develop 400-ha Laguna property

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

LANDCO Pacific Corp., a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corp., is teaming up with the Escudero family for the development of the latter's sprawling 400-hectare property in Villa Escudero in San Pablo City, Laguna.

"What we plan to do is develop the 400-hectare property into a mixed use tourism project and we are planning to call it Hacienda Escudero," Landco president and chief executive officer Alfred Xerez-Burgos said.

Xerez-Burgos said this would likely involve the development of residential areas, retirement village and other tourism-related projects.

Landco signed an agreement with Villa Escudero Corp. to develop 400 hectares of the 500-hectare Escudero property in Laguna into a mixed-use tourism project.

Phase One of Hacienda Escudero involving the first 30 hectares will be launched this year. This phase, alone, was estimated to cost about P500 million.

Powered by increasing profit, Landco is also forging a joint venture with landowners for the development of a 92-hectare property in Calatagan, Batangas this year. The property will be transformed into an integrated residential and tourism estate.

A first of its kind in the country, Landco said the development would feature exclusive sea-side home lots, a hotel, commercial center with retail, dining and entertainment outlets, apartment and condominium buildings, and recreational structures that would be designed to draw Metro Manila tourists to Calatagan.

Landco envisions to transform Calatagan into a major tourist town offering varied nature-based attractions and activities. Only two and a half hours away from southern Manila, Calatagan is a viable destination for local and foreign tourists because of the reasonable cost in the area and its proximity to Metro Manila.

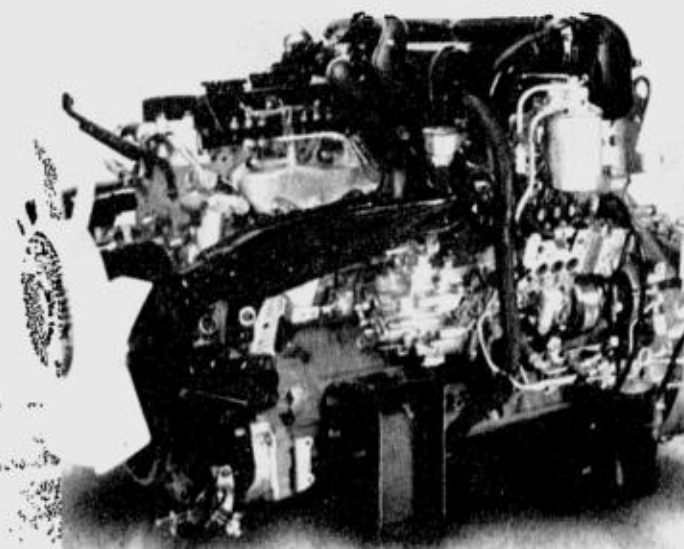
Calatagan already boasts of white sand beaches, historical landmarks, a world-class championship golf course and eco-tourism sites. Landco proposes to complement these existing attractions with a tourist hub integrating residential and tourism projects that will serve as a base from which to enjoy Calatagan's various attractions. A coral regeneration program will also be undertaken by Landco to position the town as a diving spot.

These tourism ventures have been sparked by Landco's experience in leisure and recreation gained from its earlier pioneering concepts Peninsula and Terrazas de Punta Puego, Leisure Farms and Ponderosa Leisure Farms.

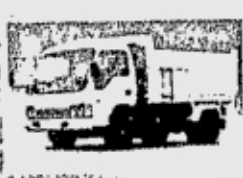
Landco aims to double its revenue to P4 billion by 2007 and emerge as one of the country's top developers.

The company is setting aside P1 billion in capital expenditures this year.

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## MANUFACTURING, SERVICES UP

## Jan.-June investments hit P125.7B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INVESTMENTS approved by the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority in the first half of the year amounted to P125.71 billion involving 246 projects, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

The amount was 12 percent lower

than the P143 billion registered in the first six months of 2004. Last year's investment registration performance was boosted by GNPower Ltd.'s P96.52-billion power complex.

Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila stressed that in the first half of the year, investments in the manufacturing and services sector went up 140 percent to

P71.27 billion, from P19.5 billion in the same period last year.

For the periods compared, projects related to manufacturing and services made up 57 percent of total approvals this year as against last year's 21 percent.

The committed investments in the manufacturing sector are distributed as follows: 46 percent for coke (coal), refined petroleum and other fuel products; 27 percent for chemicals and chemical products; 7 percent each by radio, television and communication equipment and apparatus and manufacturing of non-electronic components; and 13 percent for other manufactured products.

Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said the manufacturing and services sector would generate 43,371 new jobs once these projects were fully operational. This represent 98

percent of the 44,266 direct jobs to be created by all the 246 projects.

Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, said local investors continued to be the major source of new capital in the first half, with committed investments of P82.93 billion while foreign investments accounted for P42.78 billion.

He said Japanese investors topped the foreign investments list with P17.24 billion, while the Koreans, Dutch and Americans had P9.72 billion, P7.04 billion and P3.86 billion, respectively.

Some P49.78 billion in investment commitment, or about 40 percent of the total, would be infused into Southern Tagalog or the Calabarzon area.

More than half of the amount is for JG Summit's naphtha cracker plant to be set up in Batangas and Toyota Motor Philippines' vehicle manufacturing and assembly project in Laguna.

In June, a total of P17.55 billion worth of projects have been committed. This was 368 percent higher than the P3.74 billion listed in the same month last year.

## GMA 7 1st half profit up 39% to P1.04B

By Clarissa S. Batino

GMA Network Inc. has registered a net profit of P1.044 billion in the first six months, up 39 percent from P751 million in the same period last year, on the sustained strength of its airtime sales and a well-managed spending.

GMA president Felipe Gozon said total revenue was also 39 percent higher in the first semester than year-ago level, while expenditures grew at a slower pace of 19 percent.

Gozon said the company was optimistic it could meet or even surpass its P2-billion profit target for the year. Last year, the company posted a net profit of P1.5 billion.

"I think we will exceed P2 billion (in profit) this year because the first half is usually weaker than the second half," Gozon said in an interview.

The country's most profitable network in Mega Manila kept its lead over rival ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. in terms of earnings and ratings.

GMA 7 is planning to offer to the public 25-30 percent of its shares in the first quarter next year.

GMA bested ABS-CBN by more than 12,000 minutes of airtime ads from January to June. In the whole of 2004, Channel 7 aired more than 10,000 minutes of ads.

ABS-CBN earlier reported a net income of P185 million in the first half, down 67 percent from year-ago level. Its rating share in Mega Manila is 38 percent against GMA's 43 percent.

ABS-CBN, however, said that its rating share had started to recover from the low of 27 percent in April. The Lopez network is confident that by next year it would regain its lead over GMA, which an ABS-CBN official said, was "nowhere in sight outside of Mega Manila."

## LandBank, DBP to be tapped for Al-Amanah rehab

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE GOVERNMENT will tap state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines to help rehabilitate the country's only Islamic bank, Al-Amanah, prior to its privatization.

Finance Undersecretary Jay Singson said the government was now mapping out ways to revitalize the Al-Amanah Islamic Bank of the Philippines although it was not keen on any fresh cash infusion.

He estimated that the Islamic bank, which the government had been trying to privatize since 2000, was saddled with P400 million to P500 million worth of liabilities.

Based on Al-Amanah Bank's published statement of financial conditions as of March 28 this year, its total assets stood at only P87.16 million as against liabilities of P502.8 million.

The bank is currently undercapitalized by P415.7 million and has a negative return on equity of about 15 percent.

An Islamic bank is very much different from a conventional bank as it does not charge interest or grant pre-determined fixed returns for the use of money. The Islamic bank earns through profit sharing as it invests its funds instead of lending out.

Under this principle, an entrepreneur does not have to worry about fluctuating interest rates or foreclosure of mortgaged assets as the bank shares in the risks involved in any deal it enters into.

In view of tough competition in the banking arena, Al-Amanah Bank has been unable to attract deposits that could finance its investments.

As of the first quarter, the Islamic bank had a deposit base of only P450 million, of which P360 million consisted of government placements. Also, its non-performing loan ratio of 96 percent is the highest among commercial banks. Its NPLs amounted to P7.4 million as of the first quarter while "classified loans" and other "risk assets" amounted to P72 million.

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| Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)             | 525,000     | 510,000     |  |
| Baguio Country Club                              | 40,000      | 50,000      |  |
| Calatagan Golf Club "A"                          | 170,000     | 170,000     |  |
| Calatagan Golf Club "B"                          | 125,000     | 400,000     |  |
| Camp John Hay                                    | 500,000     |             |  |
| Canlubang                                        | 80,000      |             |  |
| Canyon Woods                                     | 1,500,000   | 1,200,000   |  |
| Capital Hills                                    | 120,000     |             |  |
| Cebu Country Club                                | 100,000     |             |  |
| Cebu Sports Club                                 | 100,000     |             |  |
| Club Filipino                                    | 100,000     |             |  |
| Eagle Ridge "A/B/C"                              | Please Call | Please Call |  |
| Forest Hills "A"                                 | 110,000     | 100,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "B"                                 | 200,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "C"                                 | 200,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "D"                                 | 400,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "E"                                 | 220,000     | 180,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "F"                                 | 250,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "G"                                 | 11,000,000  |             |  |
| Forest Hills "H"                                 | 11,000,000  |             |  |
| Forest Hills "I"                                 | 2,200,000   | 2,100,000   |  |
| Forest Hills "J"                                 | 380,000     | 350,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "K"                                 | 740,000     | 650,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "L"                                 | 400,000     | 300,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "M"                                 | 130,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "N"                                 | 330,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "O"                                 | 170,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "P"                                 | 300,000     | 280,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "Q"                                 | 170,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "R"                                 | 260,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "S"                                 | 350,000     | 330,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "T"                                 | 150,000     | 135,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "U"                                 | 600,000     | 500,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "V"                                 | 1,200,000   | 1,100,000   |  |
| Forest Hills "W"                                 | 1,600,000   |             |  |
| Forest Hills "X"                                 | 170,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "Y"                                 | 100,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "Z"                                 | 370,000     | 330,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "AA"                                | 750,000     | 650,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "AB"                                | 680,000     | 600,000     |  |
| Forest Hills "AC"                                | 530,000     |             |  |
| Forest Hills "AD"                                | 120,000     |             |  |
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# Banks' NPL ratio down to 9.2%

By Doris C. Dumlaog

FOR THE first time in seven years, the bad loan ratio of Philippine commercial banks fell to a single-digit level, as a substantial portion of their bad assets were unloaded using the special purpose vehicle (SPV) framework.

A Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report showed that as of end June, the banking sector's non-performing loan ratio was down to 9.21 percent. The level peaked at 18.81 percent in October 2001.

The June NPL ratio improved significantly from the 11.24 percent posted in end-May and 13.77 percent in end-June last year.

In a press briefing Friday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the NPL report had already factored in some P95 billion worth of soured loans cleaned up under the SPV framework in the past few months.

"The industry's loan quality deteriorated due to the (Asian) regional crisis in mid-1997," Tetangco said.

"The most significant reductions started at the latter part of 2004 as bulk sales of bad assets to SPVs were made," he said.

The SPV Law waived some of the taxes and reduced fees slapped on the sale or transfer of assets. It waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and VAT (expanded value added tax) and reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

In June, alone, NPLs sold through SPV deals amounted to P12.3 billion, trimming the sector's total bad loans to P174.87 billion from P244.85 billion a year ago.

Tetangco said the banks' efforts to improve collections and loan settlements had also significantly contributed to the reduction in the NPL level.

Of the banking sector's total loan portfolio of about P1.9 trillion, P115.19 billion or about 6 percent was restructured. Of this, some 41.85 percent was non-performing.

The banks' real and other properties and acquired (ropoas) as of June amounted to P197.22 billion, lower than the P207.5 bil-

lion a year ago.

The sum of ropoas and NPLs brought the sector's total non-performing assets (NPAs) to P363.5 billion or 8.99 percent of gross assets, improving from 12.29 percent ratio a year ago.

The NPA coverage ratio—referring to the amount of bad assets for which banks had set aside reserves—improved to 39.69 percent as of end-June from 32.56 percent a year ago.

Loan loss reserves earmarked by banks during the period amounted to P126.19 billion while NPA reserves were reported at P144.28 billion.

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A MAN works at one of the country's existing mining sites. A total of 65 MPSAs were canceled by the government recently.

## DENR suspends issuance of mining permits

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has temporarily stopped issuing mining permits called Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs).

To pave the way for the full monitoring and assessment of the development of current mining projects, Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor last week issued Memorandum Order No. 13 declaring a moratorium on the issuance of MPSAs.

The DENR's mines and geosciences bureau said it was directed to issue only exploration permits and not MPSAs.

In the same order, the DENR also cancelled 65 non-performing MPSAs. Holders of these MPSAs, according to the DENR, have not been undertaking any mining activity for nine to 25 years.

"Contractors or MPSA holders would have to prove that there are significant reserves in their areas to obtain MPSAs," said the bureau's tenements division chief Leo Jasareno in an interview.

The DENR decided to cancel the 65 MPSAs after the holders of which failed to file their motions for reconsideration during the prescribed period.

Jasareno said the DENR wanted to conduct an inventory of all approved and pending mining permits in line with its effort to maximize the potential of the country's mineral resources.

Among the 65 MPSAs cancelled were those of Josephine M. Cojuangco in Itogon, Benguet; Tranquilino Llantero, Region 1; VR Romero Construction Inc., Region 2; Petronila Ramos and Susan Anne Ramos, Region 3; ABI Mining Corp. and Bonifacio, Region 4-A; Tagbita Silica Industries Corp., Editha Maljan; Balthazar Mining Exploration Corp., Cornelia Bonilla and Magdiwang Enterprises Co., Region 4-B, and the heirs of Vicente Ranases, Samar Mining Co. Inc. and Cam-Meta Minerals Inc. and the heirs of Epifanio Landicho, Region 5.

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Editor Leo Magno

## Globe Telecom makes first 3G call in RP

By Erwin Oliva  
Contributor

MOBILE operator Globe Telecom has made its first third-generation (3G) video call over a 3G trial network, the company said.

Globe claims to be the first Philippine

operator to have tested 3G in the Philippines after obtaining a trial permit and frequencies from the National Telecommunications Commission.

"Telecommunications is a very dynamic and fast-paced industry," said Gerardo Ablaza Jr., Globe president and chief executive officer, after the 3G trial.

Globe was the first digital GSM network operator in the Philippines, when rival operators were still using analog networks about a decade ago.

It next jumped to 2.5G with General Packet Radio Service ahead of its rivals, according to Ablaza.

"Now, 3G is upon us, and we are ready.

This video call is another milestone in the evolution of Globe, one of many steps Globe is taking to understand and build the next generation of telecommunications technologies and services," the CEO said.

3G promises a richer multimedia experience with the mobile phone. With 3G, applications such as mobile TV and

live video calls can be made.

Ablaza said Globe Telecom continues to push new technologies and innovations.

"We are committed to investing today in these trials to make sure we will be ready when the time comes," he said.

Globe did not indicate when it would eventually launch a commercial 3G service.

## TV coming soon to your mobile phone, says Nokia

By Erwin Oliva  
Contributor

THE MOBILE phone industry is abuzz with the idea of watching your favorite sports show, movie, or MTV on your mobile phone, described as "snack television."

The industry has yet to figure out what business models would work or what standards to adopt, but Nokia Philippines executives say snack television will be the future of mobile television.

"It's not about replacing television sets. It is about bringing primetime television to people. It is described as snack television," said Rhomel Marcojos, Nokia Philippines product manager in the subsidiary's business development unit.

Nokia is actively promoting the idea of mobile TV to different stakeholders in the local industry, including media firms and government regulators, according to Marcojos.

He indicated, however, that clear business models have yet to emerge from this new development. Some industry reports indicate that pay-per-use and subscription models have been considered.

"At the moment, we're open to

different business models," Marcojos said.

Nokia is currently conducting pilot runs of the mobile TV application in Australia, United Kingdom, and other countries.

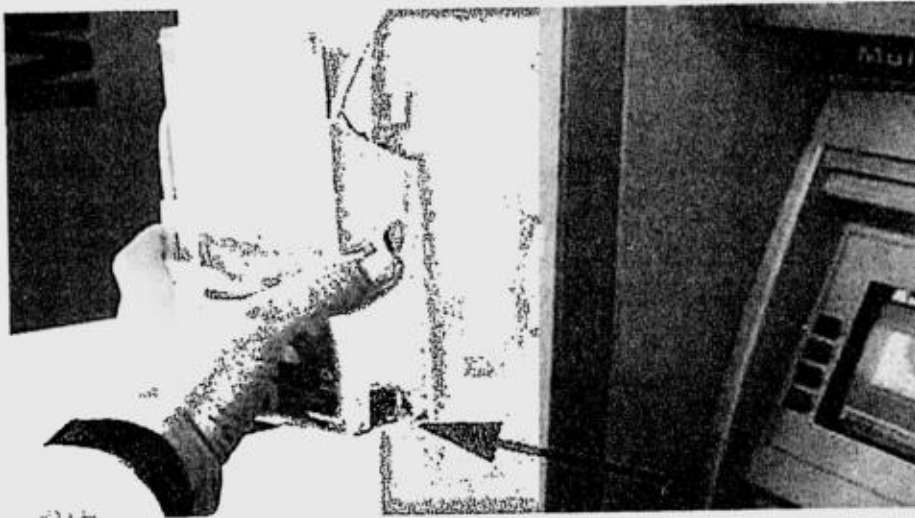
In the United Kingdom, mobile phone operator Orange launched its mobile television early this year, providing its subscribers with several channels that include ITN News, CNN, Celebrity Love Island, and Big Brother. O2 and Virgin Mobile have also announced trials of mobile television this year.

The mobile television service in the United Kingdom has recently raised regulatory issues like licensing related to television programs. No rules exist to govern mobile television in the Philippines as yet, says Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento of the National Telecommunications Commission.

"It is far off from happening in the country but we're aware of this development. But we still don't have rules to govern this type of service," Sarmiento said in a telephone interview.

Nokia Philippines says its next set of mobile phones to be launched in 2006 will support mobile television with the DVB-H standard.

## Syndicates stealing ATM card info

By Erwin Lemuel Oliva  
Contributor

**A HIDDEN** wireless camera disguised to look like a leaflet holder steals PIN codes and transmits the number to thieves in a car waiting nearby.

**THE SKIMMER** is mounted on top of a normal ATM card slot and reads the card number.

THE LANDBANK of the Philippines has warned people against suspected criminal syndicates who were installing equipment on automated teller machines in order to steal personal financial information.

Such equipment can be used to steal both the ATM card number and the personal identification number (PIN) code of users, the Landbank said.

The snooping equipment allows criminals to receive the information wirelessly as they wait nearby, it added.

Experts at the Landbank said the equipment used to capture the ATM card number and PIN codes is cleverly disguised to look like normal ATM equipment.

One piece of equipment, the skimmer, is mounted on top of a normal ATM card slot and reads the ATM card number. The skimmer transmits information from the ATM card to the criminals in a car parked nearby.

Another way to steal ATM card information is through a hidden wireless camera disguised to look like a leaflet holder. This hidden camera is usually mounted in a position where it can directly view the entry of ATM PIN codes, the Landbank said.

Once they get the information they need, criminal syndicates make copies of the cards and use the PIN numbers to withdraw cash from people whose card information had been stolen.

Officials at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas were unavailable for comment.



### What is the Value Proposition of Server Blades?

By Veronica Abad Escalante  
Product Manager  
Industry Standard Servers, HP Philippines

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Server blades (or blades) are widely viewed as compact and efficient servers that primarily save space and power. However, the full story behind blades goes far beyond considerations of the individual server. When making a deployment decision, blades should be considered as part of an integrated, consolidated infrastructure - or a complete system - that includes compute nodes, all virtualized and automated through a common management framework.

Although broadly similar, server blades have specific advantages over traditional form factor systems (tower or rackmounted servers). Such as:

- Lower acquisition costs
- Operational cost savings
- Reductions in cable complexity
- Data center space savings
- More efficient power usage
- Improved high availability at lower cost

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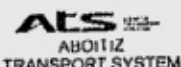
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# BIR gets tough on tax collectors, threatens dismissal

## The new improved national ID

IT IS no longer called the national ID card. It is called the unified multi-purpose ID card.

Under Executive Order No. 420, which took effect last month, President Macapagal-Arroyo requires all government agencies and government-owned and -controlled corporations to streamline and harmonize their identification systems.

Local government units may join the program at their option. The director general of the National Economic and Development Authority has issued the implementing rules.

I guess the program will eventually be expanded to cover the private sector. But, I estimate the ax won't fall in the next five years.

The EO is meant to: (1) reduce costs on the government and the public brought about by the use of multiple ID cards and the maintenance of databases containing the same related information; (2) ensure greater convenience for those transacting with the government; (3) facilitate private businesses and promote the wider use of the card; (4) enhance the integrity and reliability of government-issued ID cards; and, (5) facilitate access to, and delivery of, quality and effective government service.

As a result, the unified multi-purpose ID system is established. The system covers government employees only, but anybody can voluntarily sign up. A new bureaucracy will soon be upon us.

The data required of an employee are: name, home address, sex, picture, signature, date and place of birth, marital status, height, weight, marks of two index fingers and thumb, any distinguishing feature, tax identification number (TIN).

To ensure privacy, these data must be supplied by the employee and cannot be taken from any existing record. The data are to be kept strictly confidential. The employee must give prior and written authority to disclose any data.

This is a much better system than the one proposed by then President Ramos under his infamous Administrative Order No. 308—struck down by the Supreme Court as

### QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



an unwarranted invasion of privacy. In that system, the databases of government agencies were to be interlinked into one huge computer installed in the dark recesses of Malacañang or the defense department.

The latest biometrics technology will be used. The unique data of an employee, such as the thumb mark, will be encoded into the card. When the card owner wants to, say, make out a loan from GSIS, the card will be swiped into a scanner that verifies the applicant's identity. It will take a few years to provide 1,500,000 government employees with the card and install the scanners.

However, an employee who cannot show a unified multi-purpose ID will not be denied government service, although it might take more time to provide the service.

While the EO and the implementing rules repeatedly warns against unwarranted invasion of privacy, there are no penalties prescribed for any violation of the rules. I wonder why.

Which brings me to this question: Is the unified multi-purpose ID card for government employees really necessary? Just what kind of government service does a government clerk need?

If he takes out a loan, or wants to buy a low-cost housing unit on installment, his ID card won't help if he does not qualify. If he gets sick, no government hospital will turn him away. When he retires, his record at GSIS will be the basis of his pension.

Finally, where will the government get the estimated P150,000,000, which the program will ultimately cost?

Why can I not get rid of the gnawing feeling that a well-connected entrepreneur has the lock on the contract to produce the cards and make millions and millions in profits?

By Michelle V. Remo

STUNG by its poor revenue-collection performance, the Bureau of Internal Revenue has threatened to fire those who will not meet their collection targets in the second half.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said that with the Performance Measurement System (PMS),

the BIR intends to keep alive its hope of meeting the daunting P547-billion collection target for 2005, despite a poor showing in July.

Henares said the PMS would initially cover revenue agents under the large taxpayers division. The department accounts for about 60 percent of the BIR's collection, covering companies belonging to the Top 10,000 firms.

Under the PMS, revenue agents will be assigned specific work objectives and rated. A rating of "2" will be assigned to those whose performance are considered "poor," and "10" for "excellent."

Those who will earn a grade of 2 in the first semester of the system's implementation shall be dismissed from service, she said.

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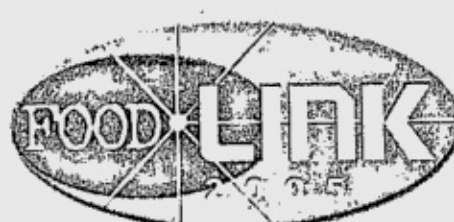
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# Spurred by PNB sale, gov't seen to go on vending spree

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT will pursue a more aggressive privatization program on the heels of the "successful" sale of its stake in Philippine National Bank, a Finance Department official said.

Specifically, the Privatization Management Office will focus its efforts on selling the old International School compound in Makati City, and another property owned by the National Development Co. before yearend.

"The sale of PNB is a big boost to the privatization program," Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr. said in a telephone interview. "It sends a strong signal that the government is serious in its effort to sell off these assets."

Singson—who is in charge of the finance department's privatization program—said he expects to earn up to P2 billion or more by yearend if the sale of the International School and NDC properties are successful.

Officials want to turn the property of the former International School into an information technology hub.

The finance department is now trying to get

the Makati City government to approve a change in the zonal classification of the IS compound to "commercial" from "institutional."

"We want to market [IS] as an IT center," Singson said. "A change in the zoning will allow a [property] developer to build on it and make it commercially viable."

Both the International School and NDC properties will be put on the auction block within the next three months, he added, especially since the local property market is starting to recover.

A successful sale will increase the government's privatization proceeds this year to P4 billion. The proceeds this year will be used to help plug an expected P140-billion budget shortfall.

For next year, Singson said he plans to privatize the old airport in Iloilo City, especially once flight operations are transferred to the new airport currently under construction.

More importantly, the government early next year will also try to sell its stake in the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC).

Singson declined to reveal details of the proposed transaction but hinted that it will be "similar in magnitude to Petron," referring to the massive privatization of the oil refinery in the mid-1990s.

"We will follow the Petron model and offer 40 percent to a strategic investor while selling 20 percent to the public," he said.

The government has listed down about 40 other real estate items up for sale, including the Food Terminal Inc. complex in Taguig. It also hopes to earn as much as P9 billion from the sale of its Meralco shares. But the outbreak of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis, and the subsequent stock market crash, have cut Meralco's share price such that the government now expects only P4 billion in proceeds from its sale.

Apart from Meralco, the other big-ticket items on the privatization list are government's 10-percent stake in the Malampaya natural gas project, the Philippine Postal Corp. (PhilPost), the Philippine National Construction Corp., and its stake in Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

## After lowering trade figures, RP growth rate may be next

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES' economic growth of 6.1 percent in 2004—which the government had proudly reported to be the highest in 15 years—may be lowered.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) said concerned government agencies have already begun a review of the country's macroeconomic figures, including the 2004 GDP (gross domestic product) and GNP (gross national product), following the announcement that the Philippines' balance-of-trade last year was overstated by a significant margin.

The National Statistics Office earlier reported that the 2004 trade deficit was actually \$4.36 billion, not \$713 million as earlier reported. The difference—a huge \$3.6 billion—was reportedly due to the adoption of a new method in calculating trade figures. The government now needs to acclimatize itself with the new technology in gathering exports and imports data from traders.

The revision covered changes in the trade figures of the electronics sector.

Dennis Arroyo, director of Neda's policy and planning staff, said economic growth figures for 2004 would likely be affected by the revision of the trade deficit figure, and it could be lower than earlier announced.

But Arroyo said that should there be a revision of the GDP and the GNP figures, it would be "very minimal." He explained that trade deficits (or surpluses) have only a small impact on the economic growth figures. In the Philippines, what drives economic growth is consumption, he explained.

"Exports of goods is [equivalent to] 40 percent of GNP, [while] imports is 41 percent," Arroyo said. "X [exports] minus M [imports] is only one percent compared with the 65 percent contributed by consumption."

Arroyo said the Neda has yet to come up with an estimate of how much the GDP and GNP would be revised. But he agreed when asked that a GDP change in the high 5-percent level would be unlikely.

The GDP and GNP growths for 2004 were reported to be at a similar 6.1 percent. GDP is the total value of goods and services produced by a nation, while GNP includes net factor income from abroad, such as remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

## DOF nixes plea to lift cap on input VAT

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has decided to turn down the business sector's plea of lifting all rules putting a cap on the input VAT credits that companies can claim.

According to finance officials, the restrictions are essential in putting a stop to widespread abuses of the tax credit system.

The DOF in particular thumbed down the proposal of removing the provision in the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law that requires companies to spread over a five-year period the input VAT credits they gained from purchase of capital equipment worth over P1 million.

The finance department also did not approve the proposal for government to do away with the 5-percent final withholding VAT imposed on firms that deliver goods or services to government entities.

A 5-percent final withholding VAT requires government entities that purchase goods or services from a supplier to withhold 5 percent of the 10-percent VAT imposed on the supplier. In effect, the rule ensures that the companies pay a net VAT of 5 percent regardless of the amount of their input VAT credits.

The spreading of input VAT credits over a five-year period and the 5-percent final withholding VAT are two of the three provisions in the VAT law that are seen to restrict the claim of credits.

"We have already decided against the proposals to protect government from tax cheats," said Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran in an interview. The finance official was referring to taxpayers who claim excessive input VAT credits to reduce their VAT liabilities.

"An ideal VAT system does not require restrictions in the claim of input VAT credits," Beltran said. "But we cannot implement an ideal VAT system in the Philippines because many taxpayers are dishonest."

The DOF earlier said it would study proposals from the private sector to relax all three provisions in the VAT law that restricts the ability of companies to claim their input VAT credits.

Members of the business community, especially petroleum dealers, have complained that putting a cap on the input VAT credits would dampen the profitability of their businesses.

But Beltran said what the DOF was now open to was the proposal of relaxing the 70-percent VAT cap. The DOF is studying the impact of easing the VAT cap to 90 percent.

Michelle V. Remo

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B10

MONDAY, AUGUST 15, 2005



COMING soon to a station near you: Gasoline blended with Ethanol.

## Seaoil to offer ethanol blend in all products

By Abigail L. Ho

RESPONDING to the country's need to ease its dependence on imported fuel, Seaoil Petroleum Corp. will soon replace all its existing gasoline products with those blended with 10-percent ethanol.

On Sept. 1, the company would be selling the country's first ethanol pre-blended gasoline in 105 Seaoil stations nationwide, said Glenn Yu, Seaoil president.

"We'll only be selling pre-blended gasoline," Yu told the INQUIRER. "Although we'll be blending 10-percent ethanol with all our existing gaso-

line products, there will be no change in prices."

The other oil firms—Eastern Petroleum Corp., Flying V and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc.—had also agreed to sell ethanol pre-blended gasoline in their stations, he said.

Yu said this would boost the number of gasoline stations selling the product to 400 nationwide by September.

Since there would be no locally produced ethanol until 2007, he said Seaoil would source its ethanol supply from a London-based manufacturer, which he declined to name at this time.

"But we'll eventually put up a plant," Yu said.

Flying V chair Ramon Villavicencio said in a separate interview that the company was also keen on putting up its own ethanol plant in the next three to five years.

"We're already conducting studies on ethanol," Villavicencio said. "We're now communicating with equipment suppliers, raw material sources and fi-

nancing entities."

Ethanol, or ethyl alcohol, is derived from crops such as sugar cane, cassava, corn and other agricultural feedstock.

Aside from being a gasoline blend, ethanol can also be used as a component of reformulated gasoline or as primary fuel with gasoline as a blend. Under the country's energy independence package, ethanol will be used as a gasoline blend.

Locally produced ethanol will come from San Carlos Bio-Energy Inc. (SCBI), a joint venture between the National Development Corp. and Bronzeoak Philippines.

The SCBI facility in San Carlos, Negros Occidental, once completed in 2007, will be able to produce some 100,000 liters of bio-ethanol a day.

According to the Department of Energy's Philippine Energy Plan, all local oil firms would be mandated to sell gasoline blended with at least 25 percent of ethanol in their service stations by 2010.

## ING Bank to strengthen microfinance effort in RP

By Doris C. Dumlaog

DUTCH financial giant ING Bank has unveiled a platform to build up microfinance infrastructure in the Philippines as part of a global thrust to broaden opportunities for low income earners.

In an interview, ING country head Manuel Salak said the bank—the main sponsor of the United Nations International Year of Microcredit 2005—recently met with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas officials to discuss the planned local microfinance activities this year.

Initial projects identified by ING included a technical assistance project for a Laguna-based microfinance lender Cardbank, and a feasibility undertaking for the non-government organization ASKI to set up a thrift bank.

Salak said ING had already formed a microfinance group to "promote awareness about microfinance and grow relationships between microfinance and the traditional commercial sector."

ING Bank, which is celebrating its 15th year of doing business in the Philippines, hopes to flesh out up to three local microfinance projects this year.

Its parent firm ING Netherlands earlier formed an alliance with Oikocredit, which provides loans to entrepreneurs in more than thirty developing countries around the world.

ING Philippines is likewise working with the local unit of Oikocredit to extend help to various microfinance institutions.

Microfinance loans are small, from a low of P2,000 to P5,000 up to a maximum of P500,000. The likelihood of default of the entire loan balance is thus great when one amortization payment is missed.

For its part, the BSP has pursued major reform initiatives to promote sustainable microfinance. It aims to "provide the long missing link that should connect the financial markets to the ordinary citizen particularly the enterprising poor."

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| BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES            |               |        |        |        |                   |
| BANKS                                 |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.              | 4             | 4.1    | 3.9    | 3.9    | 35,000            |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank               | 33            | 34     | 33     | 33.5   | 1,947,600         |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands             | 50.5          | 52     | 50.5   | 51.5   | 2,926,600         |
| China Banking Corp.                   | 77.5          | 780    | 77.5   | 780    | 1,080             |
| Citystate Savings Bank                | 17.5          | 17.5   | 17.5   | 17.5   | 7,950,000         |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc.             | 0.3           | 0.3    | 0.25   | 0.25   | 54,900            |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc.               | 19            | 19     | 19     | 19     | 5,000             |
| International Exch. Bank              | 27.5          | 28     | 27.5   | 28     | 812,900           |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust             | 49.5          | 49.5   | 47     | 47.5   | 233,400           |
| Philippine National Bank              | 16.5          | 16.75  | 15     | 15     | 202,900           |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.             | 33            | 33.5   | 33     | 33.5   | 699,000           |
| Security Bank Corp.                   | 32            | 33     | 32     | 33     | 77,600            |
| Union Bank of the Phil.               |               |        |        |        |                   |
| FINANCIAL SERVICES                    |               |        |        |        |                   |
| First Abacus Financial                | 0.3           | 0.49   | 0.3    | 0.49   | 130,000           |
| First Metro Invest. Corp.             | 260           | 260    | 260    | 260    | 650               |
| Manulife Financial Corp.              | 2800          | 2800   | 2800   | 2800   | 93,000            |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.               | 1.04          | 1.04   | 1.04   | 1.04   | 3,210             |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.             | 140           | 140    | 139    | 139    | 600               |
| Sun Life Financial Inc.               | 2000          | 2000   | 2000   | 2000   |                   |
| COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL               |               |        |        |        |                   |
| COMMUNICATION                         |               |        |        |        |                   |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.            | 14.5          | 14.5   | 13.75  | 14     | 83,200            |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc.            | 1.1           | 1.12   | 1.05   | 1.08   | 6,001,000         |
| Globe Telecom Inc.                    | 810           | 820    | 810    | 815    | 15,270            |
| People Inc.                           | 2.9           | 2.9    | 2.9    | 2.9    | 1,114,000         |
| Island Info and Tech Inc.             | 0.045         | 0.045  | 0.045  | 0.045  | 2,000,000         |
| ISM Communications Corp.              | 0.055         | 0.055  | 0.055  | 0.055  | 11,200,000        |
| Liberty Telecom Holdings              | 0.22          | 0.22   | 0.2    | 0.2    | 430,000           |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.            | 1.9           | 1.9    | 1.9    | 1.9    | 10,000            |
| Philglobe Tel. Corp.                  | 3.25          | 3.35   | 3.2    | 3.25   | 7,361,000         |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.                | 1690          | 1715   | 1680   | 1680   | 49,270            |
| Ivantage Corp.                        | 0.39          | 0.6    | 0.55   | 0.6    | 500,000           |
| Philweb Corp.                         | 0.017         | 0.017  | 0.017  | 0.017  | 2,000,000         |
| POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES       |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Manila Electric Co. A                 | 15            | 15     | 14.75  | 15     | 55,900            |
| Manila Electric Co. B                 | 25            | 25     | 24.5   | 25     | 789,400           |
| Manila Water Co. Inc.                 | 6.7           | 6.7    | 6.7    | 6.7    | 1,114,000         |
| Patron Corp.                          | 3.3           | 3.35   | 3.25   | 3.35   | 5,169,000         |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy             | 1.22          | 1.22   | 1.18   | 1.18   | 160,000           |
| TRANSPORTATION SERVICES               |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv             | 8.2           | 8.2    | 8.2    | 8.2    | 338,000           |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp.                | 1.14          | 1.16   | 1.14   | 1.16   | 270,000           |
| CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Engineering Equip. Inc.               | 0.5           | 0.5    | 0.5    | 0.5    | 1,530,000         |
| Holcim Philippines Inc.               | 3.1           | 3.1    | 3      | 3.05   | 380,000           |
| FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO             |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Alaska Milk Corp.                     | 3.5           | 3.5    | 3.5    | 3.5    | 160,000           |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc.               | 31.5          | 31.5   | 31.5   | 31.5   | 44,100            |
| Jollibee Foods Corp.                  | 32.5          | 32.5   | 32     | 32     | 12,000            |
| RFM Corp.                             | 0.71          | 0.71   | 0.71   | 0.71   | 130,000           |
| San Miguel Corp. A                    | 68.5          | 69     | 68.5   | 69     | 77,100            |
| San Miguel Corp. B                    | 99.5          | 101    | 99.5   | 101    | 17,700            |
| Universal Robina Corp.                | 17            | 17     | 17     | 17     | 36,000            |
| Vitarich Corp.                        | 0.26          | 0.26   | 0.26   | 0.26   | 780,000           |
| HOLDING FIRMS                         |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg B                | 0.009         | 0.009  | 0.009  | 0.009  | 10,000,000        |
| Ayala Corp.                           | 317.5         | 325    | 317.5  | 325    | 133,870           |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.                | 0.6           | 0.61   | 0.59   | 0.59   | 620,000           |
| Aboritz Equity Ventures               | 5             | 5      | 4.55   | 5      | 1,080,000         |
| Alliance Global Group Inc.            | 10            | 10     | 10     | 10     | 2,000             |
| Alo Net Holdings Inc.                 | 0.027         | 0.027  | 0.026  | 0.026  | 27,300,000        |
| A. Soriano Corp.                      | 2.06          | 2.06   | 2.06   | 2.06   | 1,186,000         |
| APC Group Inc.                        | 0.26          | 0.29   | 0.26   | 0.28   | 3,730,000         |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.                | 0.0075        | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 172,000,000       |
| ATN Holdings Inc.                     | 1.64          | 1.64   | 1.54   | 1.54   | 150,000           |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.            | 0.79          | 0.79   | 0.79   | 0.79   | 10,000            |
| Bacolon Cons Indus Inc.               | 10.5          | 10.5   | 10.5   | 10.5   | 13,500            |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc.               | 0.135         | 0.135  | 0.135  | 0.135  | 200,000           |
| Benpres Holdings Corp.                | 1.2           | 1.22   | 1.16   | 1.2    | 21,029,000        |
| Basic Consolidated Inc.               | 0.23          | 0.23   | 0.22   | 0.22   | 3,500,000         |
| Southeast Asian Cement                | 0.245         | 0.25   | 0.24   | 0.245  | 2,970,000         |
| DMCI Holdings Inc.                    | 3.1           | 3.1    | 3      | 3      | 454,000           |
| Fluinvest Dev. Corp.                  | 1.08          | 1.1    | 1.08   | 1.1    | 158,000           |
| Fl-Hispano Holdings Corp.             | 7.4           | 7.7    | 7.4    | 7.6    | 2,632,000         |
| First Phil Hlgs Corp.                 | 45.5          | 46.5   | 45.5   | 46     | 546,000           |
| Global Equities Inc.                  | 0.0775        | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 0.0775 | 400,000           |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.             | 1.82          | 1.82   | 1.82   | 1.82   | 209,000           |
| Macro Asia Corp.                      | 1.46          | 1.48   | 1.44   | 1.46   | 30,000            |
| Magaworld Corp.                       | 0.36          | 0.36   | 0.35   | 0.35   | 10,799,000        |
| Metro Pacific Corp.                   | 0.235         | 0.25   | 0.235  | 0.25   | 15,040,000        |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc.               | 1.02          | 1.02   | 1.02   | 1.02   | 12,280,000        |
| Prima Media Holdings Inc.             | 0.29          | 0.29   | 0.29   | 0.29   | 20,000            |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp.            | 0.59          | 0.59   | 0.59   | 0.59   | 110,000           |
| Solid Group Inc.                      | 233           | 234    | 222    | 229    | 1,180,000         |
| SM Investments Corp.                  | 0.7           | 0.7    | 0.7    | 0.7    | 1,284,700         |
| South China Resources Inc.            | 0.175         | 0.175  | 0.175  | 0.175  | 20,000            |
| Univide Holdings Inc.                 | 0.13          | 0.14   | 0.13   | 0.13   | 1,870,000         |
| Welllex Industries Inc.               | 0.2           | 0.2    | 0.2    | 0.2    | 420,000           |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc.                | 0.2           | 0.2    | 0.2    | 0.2    | 730,000           |
| MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Corro-Coal Inc.                       | 1.04          | 1.04   | 1.04   | 1.04   | 10,000            |
| Picop Resources Inc.                  | 0.08          | 0.09   | 0.09   | 0.09   | 600,000           |
| HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES    |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Belle Corp.                           | 0.99          | 1.02   | 0.98   | 0.98   | 6,790,000         |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc.                | 0.83          | 0.83   | 0.83   | 0.83   | 50,000            |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp.               | 1.44          | 1.48   | 1.4    | 1.42   | 1,847,000         |
| Premiere Entl. Prod. Inc.             | 0.31          | 0.31   | 0.31   | 0.31   | 810,000           |
| BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS           |               |        |        |        |                   |
| ABS-CBN Hlgs. Corp. (PDR)             | 14.5          | 14.5   | 13.75  | 14     | 1,102,100         |
| OTHERS                                |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Centro Escolar University             | 7.4           | 7.4    | 7.4    | 7.4    | 1,000             |
| PROPERTY                              |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Ayala Land Inc.                       | 8.4           | 8.5    | 8.4    | 8.5    | 10,266,000        |
| Cebu Holdings Inc.                    | 0.92          | 0.92   | 0.92   | 0.92   | 10,000            |
| C & P Homes Inc.                      | 0.25          | 0.25   | 0.245  | 0.25   | 1,770,000         |
| Cyber Bay Corp.                       | 0.28          | 0.3    | 0.27   | 0.3    | 35,030,000        |
| Empire East Land Inc.                 | 0.38          | 0.38   | 0.37   | 0.37   | 3,080,000         |
| Fluinvest Land Inc.                   | 1.54          | 1.58   | 1.54   | 1.59   | 18,734,000        |
| Kuok Phil. Properties                 | 0.21          | 0.22   | 0.21   | 0.21   | 2,250,000         |
| Fl-Estate Land Inc.                   | 0.44          | 0.44   | 0.44   | 0.44   | 10,000            |
| Robinsons Land Corp.                  | 4.4           | 4.4    | 4.4    | 4.4    | 11,000            |
| Phil Realty And Holdings              | 0.2           | 0.21   | 0.2    | 0.2    | 4,950,000         |
| SM Development Corp.                  | 1.5           | 1.52   | 1.5    | 1.52   | 44,000            |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc.                | 7.4           | 7.4    | 7.4    | 7.6    | 6,934,000         |
| MINING                                |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A                | 0.94          | 0.99   | 0.93   | 0.98   | 870,000           |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B                | 0.94          | 0.99   | 0.94   | 0.95   | 350,000           |
| Abra Mining & Industrial              | 0.0085        | 0.0085 | 0.008  | 0.008  | 143,000,000       |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't               | 5.1           | 5.2    | 5      | 5.1    | 771,000           |
| Bangunt Corp. A                       | 7.8           | 7.8    | 7.8    | 7.9    | 13,000            |
| Lapinto Cons Mng. Co. A               | 0.34          | 0.34   | 0.33   | 0.33   | 14,380,000        |
| Lapinto Cons. Mng. Co. B              | 0.35          | 0.35   | 0.35   | 0.35   | 3,320,000         |
| Manila Mining Corp. A                 | 0.017         | 0.017  | 0.017  | 0.017  | 47,000,000        |
| Manila Mining Corp. B                 | 0.022         | 0.022  | 0.021  | 0.021  | 54,800,000        |
| Omico Corp.                           | 0.0065        | 0.0065 | 0.006  | 0.006  | 21,000,000        |
| Phillex Mining Corp. A                | 0.83          | 0.84   | 0.83   | 0.83   | 2,810,000         |
| Phillex Mining Corp. B                | 0.96          | 0.96   | 0.94   | 0.95   | 7,820,000         |
| Semirara Mining Corp.                 | 28.5          | 29     | 28.5   | 28.5   | 190,000           |
| United Paragon Mining Co.             | 0.27          | 0.27   | 0.27   | 0.27   | 350,000           |
| OIL                                   |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Imperial Res.                         | 0.01          | 0.01   | 0.01   | 0.01   | 14,000,000        |
| Interport Res. B                      | 0.004         | 0.004  | 0.004  | 0.004  | 3,000,000         |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A                | 0.0075        | 0.0075 | 0.007  | 0.007  | 423,000,000       |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B                | 0.008         | 0.008  | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 33,000,000        |
| The Philodrill Corp. A                | 0.34          | 0.34   | 0.34   | 0.34   | 100,000           |
| Pacific                               | 0.01          | 0.01   | 0.01   | 0.01   | 2,000,000         |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp.                | 3.75          | 3.8    | 3.6    | 3.6    | 330,000           |
| Sinophill Corp.                       | 0.145         | 0.145  | 0.145  | 0.145  | 4,300,000         |
| Vulcan Ind'l                          | 0.37          | 0.38   | 0.36   | 0.36   | 470,000           |
| SHARES                                |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Bank & Fin Svc                        | 18,488,150    |        |        |        | 483,962,760.00    |
| Comm'l & Ind'l                        | 489,687,510   |        |        |        | 9,692,541,285.00  |
| PDR                                   | 83,089,000    |        |        |        | 182,447,670.00    |
| Mining                                | 296,574,000   |        |        |        | 29,774,100.00     |
| OIL                                   | 480,200,000   |        |        |        | 6,649,700.00      |
| GRAND TOTALS:                         | 1,368,138,660 |        |        |        | 10,394,375,515.00 |
| AVERAGES                              |               |        |        |        |                   |
| Bank & Fin Svc                        | 55.57         |        |        |        | UP 6.66           |
| Comm'l & Ind'l                        | 2,222.87      |        |        |        | UP 14.38          |
| PDR                                   | 750.47        |        |        |        | UP 14.14          |
| Mining                                | 2,756.19      |        |        |        | DOWN 20.45        |
| OIL                                   | 2.80          |        |        |        | UNCH 0.00         |
| SME                                   | 1,230.32      |        |        |        | UP 5.33           |
| All Shares Index                      | 2,038.10      |        |        |        | UP 14.40          |
| Compos.                               |               |        |        |        |                   |

| CURRENCIES      |           |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| August 14, 2005 | Unit      | Euro Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
| Country         |           |                 |                 |
| United States   | Dollar    | 0.801860        | 1.000000        |
| Japan           | Yen       | 0.007315        | 0.009123        |
| United Kingdom  | Pound     | 1.452329        | 1.811200        |
| Hong Kong       | Dollar    | 0.103219        | 0.128725        |
| Switzerland     | Franc     | 0.843909        | 0.803019        |
| Canada          | Dollar    | 0.668161        | 0.833264        |
| Singapore       | Dollar    | 0.487039        | 0.607386        |
| Australia       | Dollar    | 0.620491        | 0.773814        |
| Bahrain         | Dinar     | 2.127064        | 2.652661        |
| Saudi Arabia    | Rial      | 0.213812        | 0.266645        |
| Brunei          | Dollar    | 0.485564        | 0.605547        |
| Indonesia       | Rupiah    | 0.000082        | 0.000102        |
| Thailand        | Baht      | 0.019644        | 0.024498        |
| UAE             | Dirham    | 0.216336        | 0.272287        |
| Euro            | Euro      | 1.000000        | 1.247100        |
| Malaysia        | Ringgit   | 0.213773        | 0.266596        |
| Mexico          | New Peso  | 0.075583        | 0.094224        |
| New Zealand     | Dollar    | 0.564850        | 0.704424        |
| Korea           | Won       | 0.000790        | 0.000985        |
| Taiwan          | Nt Dollar | 0.025171        | 0.031391        |

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said its net earnings grew tenfold to P103.3 million in the January-to-June period from P10.2 million a year ago, propelled by revenues from two major initial public offerings.

The IPO market, which had been anemic since the financial crisis in 1997, had a robust start this year with major the offerings of Ayala-led Manila Water Co. worth P5.4 billion and SM Investments Corp., the flagship company of mall tycoon Henry Sy Jr. which raised P29 billion from the public.

In its unaudited financial report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the

PSE said its operating income grew to P162.6 million in the first half from P62.07 million in the same period last year.

Of the total operating revenue, income from listing fees accounted for the bulk, surging 234 percent to P112.78 million for the six months ending June 30 from P33.8 million in the same period last year.

The second-quarter performance also showed a marked improvement due to higher listing fees from SMIC, Manila Water and the additional listing of Pilipino Telephone Corp.

The PSE also derived higher revenues from service fees from its wholly owned subsidiary, Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines (SCCP).

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Pre-need sales down 34%

SALES of pre-need firms dropped by 34.17 percent to P12.1 billion in the first half of the year from P18.4 billion a year ago due to the weakness in education and pension plan sales as confidence in the pre-need industry continued to falter from news of the financial troubles of some major pre-need firms.

Documents from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) showed that the total number of plans sold in the first half also declined by 24.8 percent to 185,729 from 246,975 in the same period last year.

For the month of June alone, the amount of plans sold suffered a 62.4-percent drop to P1.5 billion from P3.9 billion in the same period last year. Sales of education plans fell 74 percent to P365 million in June from P1.4 billion in the same month last year.

Sales of pension plans also sank 60 percent in June to P901 million, while life plans inched lower by 17.7 percent to P200 million.

From January to June, sales of education plans declined 45.3 percent to P3.7 billion from P6.8 billion a year ago. Pension plan sales also dipped by 41 percent to P6 billion from P10.2 billion. Only life plans managed to buck the trend as sales grew 69.6 percent to P2.4 billion from P1.4 billion.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez



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10 simple questions for CRM managers that will save you from a lot of misery
3. Drawing up a DM Budget: How much you should be willing to spend on marketing
4. How to get lots more sales from your ads and mailings.  
Avoiding the seven deadly sins of direct marketing
5. Building response and brands: How Direct Marketing and CRM works – and how it can build your brands
6. Creating compelling, sticky creatives that deliver response and results:
  - a. How to interrogate your product or service and tease out what sets you apart from your competitors
  - b. How to "climb inside" prospects' minds and understand what's most likely to make them act
  - c. How to plan and brief so your messages are far more likely to work
  - d. Plus, FAQs like the following are answered:
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MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

### INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid in the Second Round of Bidding for the privatization of the following:

#### 600 MW Batangas Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant located at San Rafael, Calaca, Batangas

(the "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where is" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("LOI") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 23, 2005 (the "LOI Submission Deadline"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S. \$ 1,000.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of August 24, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from August 16, 2005 until August 24, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "Deadline") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

|                                              |                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Due Diligence</b>                         | August 16 – October 7, 2005                                    |
| <b>Pre-bid Conference</b>                    | August 31, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office                 |
| <b>Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM</b> | To be announced to Interested Bidders at a later date by PSALM |

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Nine Million U.S. Dollars (US\$ 9,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Further details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address [fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph](mailto:fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph).

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **RAPHAEL P.M. LOTILLA**  
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee  
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The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, is the main advocate for global action on the epidemic. It leads, strengthens and supports an expanded response aimed at preventing transmission of HIV, providing care and support, reducing the vulnerability of individuals and communities to HIV/AIDS, and alleviating the impact of the epidemic.

### Invitation to tender for the management of a UNAIDS Technical Support Facility in South East Asia and the Pacific

UNAIDS is establishing a Technical Support Facility (TSF) in South East Asia and the Pacific. This TSF will seek to collaborate with country and regional partners in the provision of high quality technical assistance required for the strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of efforts in support of national HIV/AIDS programmes.

The TSF will be established and managed by an existing national/ regional organisation or consortia on a contractual basis for a period of two years with the possibility of a further three year extension. The main aims of the TSF will be to:

- Improve country partner access to timely and quality assured technical assistance in agreed priority areas
- Strengthen the capacity of country partners to manage technical assistance effectively
- Assist in the professional development of national and regional consultants
- Encourage a harmonised and collaborative approach to the delivery of technical assistance in support of country partner-owned and partner-led action plans

Applications are welcomed from groups working as a Consortium or network to establish the TSF in South East Asia and the Pacific. The competition is open to organizations established in any country in South East Asia and the Pacific region listed in the tender documents.

Further information on tender documents, eligibility criteria and required formats of tenders are available from:

Susan O'Leary, e-mail address: [tsfap@unaids.org](mailto:tsfap@unaids.org).

Deadline for submission of tender documents by registered mail will be **26 August 2005, 17:00 GMT**

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**National Electrification Administration**  
 Quezon City

**NEEDED IMMEDIATELY**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**

FOR  
**PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
 (PELCO II)  
 Guagua, Pampanga

**Qualifications:**  
 • 30-50 YEARS OLD  
 • Male or Female  
 • Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science  
 • With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred  
 • Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise  
 • Computer literate  
 • Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Pampanga

**Starting Salary P35,000.00**

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 26 August 2005.

(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO  
 Administrator

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**NISSAN**

97 Green Galant VR V6 SE 140T Km A/T 1 Owner P250T 9526070 / 09189186075

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**CARS FOR RENT**

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**CAR LOAN**

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**TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT**

**CARS FOR RENT**

**CAR LOAN**

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1.5% w/o Taking Car 365097475

1.5% w/o Taking Car 722894243

1Hour Car Loan 9153460

2%w/o taking car 6560140

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 781535255

1.5% w/o Taking Car 365097475

1.5% w/o Taking Car 722894243

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Car Loan 781535255

1.5% w/o Taking Car 365097475

1.5% w/o Taking Car 722894243





Republic of the Philippines  
**ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT**  
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

**INVITATION TO BID**

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested Licensed Suppliers to submit bids for the following:

| PRQ/NO. | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                         |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8347    | Supply of 10,000 liters capacity Truck-mounted Stainless Steel Water Tanker<br>Approved Budget Cost : P1,500,000.00 |

Interested Licensed Suppliers may obtain Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications at the BAC Secretariat, 3/F ZCWD Main Bldg., Pilar Street, Zamboanga City upon payment of a minimal non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. Issuance on Bid documents will be on August 8 to 19, 2005 only. After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue any bid documents.

Suppliers must submit the following documents for eligibility check on or before August 9, 2005, to qualify for bidding:

**A. Legal Documents**

1. A copy of the Department of Trade and Industry Certificate of Registration of Business Name or Security and Exchange Commission Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines.
2. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License. In cases, where Mayor's Permit/Municipal License is still being renewed, a Certification form Licensing Division that such a permit is still being process.
3. Taxpayer's Identification Number
4. Statement from Bidder that it is not "Blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the consolidated Blacklisted Report issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of IRR-A, R.A. 9184.
5. Letter of Intent from the prospective bidder to participate in the bidding.
6. The prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative shall certify that each document submitted is an original copy of a true faithful reproduction of the original.
7. Other Documents as may be required.

**B. Technical Documents**

1. Statement of the prospective bidder of all its on-going and completed government and private contracts within the relevant period, where applicable, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is:
  - a. Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started: within the relevant period, where applicable. The statement include, for each contract, the following:  
The Name of the Contract;  
Date of Contract;  
Amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;  
Date of Contract Started;  
End user's acceptance, if completed; and  
Specification whether prospective bidder is a manufacturer, supplier or distributor; or
  - b. Similar or not in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid.

**C. Financial Documents**

1. The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing among others, the prospective bidder's total and current Assets and Liabilities; and
2. The Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFFC), which shall be accordance with Section 23.11 of IRR-A, RA 9184 or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Pre-bid Conference August 19, 2005  
2:00 p.m. at the 2/F, ZCWD Main Bldg.,  
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

Submission of Bids August 24, 2005  
2:00 p.m. at the 2/F, ZCWD Main Bldg.,  
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

(Sgd.) ALEJO S. ROJAS, JR.  
BAC 2 Chairman

(PDI-Aug. 15, 2005)



Republic of the Philippines  
**ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT**  
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

**INVITATION TO BID**

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested Licensed Suppliers of Water Meters to submit bids for the following:

| PRQ/NO. | DESCRIPTION                                                                   | BID DOCUMENT FEE |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 8278    | Water Meter, WT-Model, sizes: 3" & 4" Ø<br>Approved Budget cost: P 160,000.00 | 500.00           |

Interested Licensed Suppliers may obtain Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications at the BAC Secretariat, 3/F ZCWD Main Bldg., Pilar Street, Zamboanga City upon payment of minimal non-refundable document fee. Issuance on Bid documents will be on August 8 to 15, 2005 only. After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue any bid documents.

Licensed Suppliers must submit the following documents for eligibility check on or before August 15, 2005 to qualify for bidding:

**A. Legal Documents**

1. A copy of the Department of Trade and Industry Certificate of Registration of Business Name or Security and Exchange Commission Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines.
2. Valid and Current Mayor's Permit/Municipal license for the year 2005.
3. Taxpayer's Identification Number
4. Statement from Bidder that it is not "Blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the consolidated Blacklisted Report issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of IRR-A, R.A. 9184

**B. Technical Documents**

1. Statement of the prospective bidder of all its on-going and completed government and private contracts within the relevant period, where applicable, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is:
  - a. Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started: within the relevant period, where applicable. The statement include, for each contract, the following:  
The Name of the Contract;  
Date of Contract;  
Amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;  
Date of Contract Started;  
End user's acceptance, if completed; and  
Specification whether prospective bidder is a manufacturer, supplier or distributor; or
  - b. Similar or not in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid.

**C. Financial Documents**

1. The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing among others, the prospective bidder's total and current Assets and Liabilities; as of the year 2004, or the latest BIR stamped Financial Statement.
2. The prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFFC), which shall be accordance with Section 23.11 of IRR-A, RA 9184 or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

**Other Documents**

1. Letter of commitment of the prospective bidder to participate in the bidding
2. The Prospective Bidder or its duly authorized representative shall certify under oath that each of the documents submitted is an original copy of a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.

Pre-bid Conference: August 18, 2005  
2:00 PM AT THE 2/F, ZCWD MAIN BLDG.,  
PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY

Submission of Bids: August 25, 2005  
2:00 pm at the 2/F, ZCWD MAIN BLDG.,  
PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY

(Sgd.) ARNULFO A. ALFONSO  
BAC 1 Chairman

(PDI-Aug. 15, 2005)

**WE ARE MOVING...**

Connell Bros. Co. Pilipinas, Inc.

Effective 15<sup>th</sup> August 2005, our new address and contact details will be as follows :-

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Philippines

Tel Nos +63 (0) 2 533 9688

Fax Nos +63 (0) 2 531 0273 / +63 (0) 2 633 4088

Our Post Office Box will remain as is -

PO Box 12496 Ortigas Center Post Office  
Pasig 1605 Metro Manila Philippines

Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Albay  
Municipality of Malinao

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

August 15, 2005  
Loan No. 4299-PH  
IFB No. Mal-SFF-01-2005

**To All Qualified Bidders:**

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of financing the Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines for Procurement under World Bank Loans.
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation of Level II Water System, in the Municipality of Malinao, Province of Albay.
3. Bidding documents may be purchased on August 16 - September 7, 2005 at the Municipality of Malinao with address at Poblacion Malinao Albay for a non-refundable fee of Php 3,000.00 for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000.00) in the form of Manager's check or Bank Guarantee and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Municipality of Malinao - on or before September 15, 2005, 10:00am, at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held on September 8, 2005 at the Malinao SB Hall, Malinao, Albay.
6. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may found disadvantageous to the government.

(SGD.) GRACE N. MARBELLA  
BAC Chairperson

(PDI-Aug. 15, 2005)

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

The Int'l. Manpower Essentials, Inc. with office address in B202-1 Mactan Marina Mall, PEZA 1, Lapu-lapu City, Cebu, is in the process of applying for the issuance of Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration (POEA) License.

List of Directors, Stockholders and Officers as of August 2005.

| Name                   | Designation                                                 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| DORIS B. PEGARIDO      | Director and General Manager                                |
| ELIZABETH A. ALBURO    | Director, Administrative Operations and Corporate Secretary |
| LINA R. ERASMO         | Director, Treasurer and Financial Controller                |
| JEAN A. PORO           | Director and Accounting Manager                             |
| RUBEN T. ESPIRITU, JR. | Director                                                    |

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SALESMAN 35 TO 50 YEARS OLD. STRONG CLOSER NEEDED. EXPERIENCE IN TIME SHARE, DIRECT SALES, ETC. PHP 25,000/MONTH PLUS COMMISSION. SEND RESUME 752-4156 ATTENTION: MR. LOPEZ

VACANT ITEM  
Division of Presig & San Juan Item No. OSEC-DECSB-TCH2-35944-1998 & TCH1-47508-1998 (Sgd.) Abella C. Macarandun School Division Superintendent

**PERSONAL**

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE  
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever Amen  
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Pray for us.  
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.  
Say nine times a day for nine days Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed. Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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21-9400 (6000)  
dcbd@water.gov.ph  
224-5392  
[www.davao-water.gov.ph](http://www.davao-water.gov.ph)

(SGD.) ALFONSO E. LAIO  
BAC-A Chairman

(PDI-Aug. 15 & 22, 2005)



## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

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 ☎ 635-0219 ☎ 687-2354 ☎ 687-2366 Fax 635-0220  
 G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA  
 ☎ 527-3342 ☎ 527-4406 ☎ 527-6357 Fax 528-0213  
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in the hearts that you touched  
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10<sup>th</sup> anniversary to eternal life

**FR. CORNELIO  
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Assumption of Mary

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from the  
body to be  
present with  
the Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory on the  
Second (2nd) Death Anniversary of

**LILIA DABLO  
FARIN-VITUG**

who died August 15, 2003  
The family requests relatives  
and friends to pray for the  
eternal repose of her soul.

**Judge Redemido B. Santos**

1935 - 2005  
of Agay, Uyong, Davao City

Died in the peace of our Lord  
on August 13, 2005 at the age of 70.

His loving wife Fiding; children Dulce and Larry Natividad; Dennis;  
Dexter and Racquel; grandchildren Dominic, Daniel, Joaquin, and  
Rafael; brothers and sisters Jovita, Rosalina, Raymunda, Lita,  
Digna, Fortunato, Aurora, Nicanora, Florencio, Jr. and  
Manolito; brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, and friends request  
the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 6 of The Mortuary and Crematory at the  
Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 18, 2005 at the Heritage Park,  
after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Chapel 6 of the Mortuary and Crematory at the  
Heritage Park.

Mortuary and Crematory  
THE HERITAGE PARK  
FORT BONIFACIO

## CLASSIFIEDS



## National Transmission Corporation

South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

## Rehabilitation of Security Office at SLOM

An existing security office located within the South Luzon Operations and Maintenance compound in San Vicente, Bifan, Laguna is proposed for rehabilitation.

(TRANS-05-RSOSL-EG-05)

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) intends to apply the sum of Eight Hundred Forty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Six & 76/100 (P846,726.76) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Rehabilitation of Security Office at SLOM. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM now invites potential bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the Rehabilitation of Security Office at SLOM. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, General Building" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Building and Industrial Plant", respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the construction of all types of buildings. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: August 30, 9:00 A.M. at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by sixty (60) calendar days.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting August 8 to August 26, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before August 30, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on August 30, 2005, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on September 7-9, 2005.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee P1,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting September 7-9, 2005, 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on September 15, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Bifan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on September 27, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, September 27, 2005, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance  
 Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)  
 San Vicente Bifan, Laguna 4024  
 Mr. Reynaldo B. Vergara - BAC Chairman  
 (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086; 4053  
 rbvergara@transco.ph  
 (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007  
 www.transco.ph

(SGD.) REYNALDO B. VERGARA  
BAC Chairman

(PD1--Aug. 15, 2005)



## National Transmission Corporation

Section I

## Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Supply and Delivery of Wireless GSM/GPRS Modem

[Reference No.: PB050620-EL0055]

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) through the CY2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board, intends to apply the sum of P1,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of Wireless GSM/GPRS Modem. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall automatically be rejected at Bid opening.
2. The TRANSCO now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for GSM/GPRS Modem. Delivery of the GOODS is required by 30 Calendar days upon receipt of approved Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidders is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from TRANSCO and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). The method of payment will be in CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The TRANSCO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 6, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the same address below.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 2:00 P.M. of September 20, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit and in the amount of P1,000,000. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bids opening shall be on 2:00 P.M. of September 20, 2005 at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, Transco Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. TRANSCO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

BAC Secretariat Office  
 National Transmission Corporation  
 Materials Management Division  
 Ground Floor, TRANSCO Main Bldg.  
 Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road  
 Diliman, Quezon City  
 Tel. No. 632-9812235  
 Email: evlaticia@transco.ph  
 Fax No. 632-9228432/9216753  
 Website: www.transco.ph

(SGD.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA  
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PD1--Aug. 15, 2005)



## Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE  
(Head Office)

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project described below.

Project Title: Proposed Site Development and Construction of Multi-Purpose Warehouse, Utility Building, Motorpool and Armored Trucks/Cars Parking Facilities (SPC-MPC Module 6)

Scope of Work: Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed site development and construction of multi-purpose warehouse, utility building, motorpool and armored trucks/cars parking facilities all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.

Project Location: East Avenue, Quezon City  
 Approved Budget: Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00)  
 Source of Funding: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas  
 Contract Duration: One Hundred (100) calendar days

Minimum Requirement (Criteria):  
 PCAB License: Registration Particulars of at least "Medium A" (Building and Industrial Plant)

Contractor's Construction Experience: Should have completed within the last five (5) years (2000 to present) at least three (3) projects involving site development works and construction of at least 2-stories commercial, industrial, or office buildings or similar projects one of which costs not less than twenty two million pesos (P25,000,000.00)

Certification of Satisfactory Performance: Should be able to submit certificates of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects. For those contractors who have previously done / completed BSP projects, the certificate of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said projects must be submitted.

Net Financial Contracting Capacity or Credit Line or Cash Deposit Certificate: computed as 10 x (current asset less current liabilities) minus (value of all on-going contracts including awarded yet to be started) at least Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00)

Eligibility Statement Forms: Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)  
 Cost of Forms: August 08 to 15, 2005 / 9:00 AM to 12 NN  
 Date of Issuance: August 19, 2005 / 4:30 PM

Deadline of Submission: August 25, 2005 / 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM  
 Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility: Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)

Pre-Bid Conference: August 25 to 26, 2005 / 9:00 AM to 12:00 NN  
 Date of Issuance: September 9, 2005 / 10:00 AM  
 Date and Time: MR2A, 2nd Floor, BSP Main Complex A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St., Manila

Submission and Opening of Bids: September 27, 2005 / 10:00 AM

For inquiries please call BAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

The venue for the issuance and submission of accomplished eligibility statements and bid documents is at the BAC Secretariat, Room 204, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building, BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo St. Manila.

The schedule of bid activities from the issuance of notice of eligibility / ineligibility up to the deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall govern relative to the bidding and award of contract including its implementation.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor whose bid is evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(SGD.) JUAN DE SUÑIGA, JR.  
Chairman

(PD1--August 7 &amp; 15, 2005)



## PNOG ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Center, Merrill Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila  
 Philippines MCOB Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1280

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOG - Energy Development Corporation (PNOG-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

INSTALLATION OF SOIL NAIL ASSEMBLIES AND APPLICATION  
 OF SHOTCRETE ON THE SLOPE OF TOWER 7 FOUNDATION IN  
 LGPP - MALITBOG FCRS SECTOR  
 EDC 05-130

The Approved Budget is P10,810,430.00 chargeable against PNOG-EDC fund. The contract duration is 100 calendar days.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOG-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o F.T. Toleros) starting August 2, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: One Thousand (P1,000.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 18, 2005, 1:00 PM at Pre-Bid Room, 1st Flr., Bldg. 5, PNOG-EDC, Merrill Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Site inspection will be on August 12, 2005 at the Layte Geothermal Production Field, Ormoc City.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOG-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOG-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, not later than 2:00 p.m. on August 31, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOG-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOG-EDC.

(SGD.) Francis M. Dolor  
BAC Chairman

(PD1--Aug. 15, 2005)



## PNOG ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Energy Center, Merrill Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila  
 Philippines MCOB Box 2102 Tel. No. 893-6001/1280

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOG - Energy Development Corporation (PNOG-EDC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

2006 ANNUAL CONTRACT ON RENTAL OF VARIOUS HEAVY AND  
 SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR SOUTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL  
 PRODUCTION FIELD (SNGPF) (ON-CALL PRIORITY BASIS)  
 EDC 05-028-1

The Approved Budget is P52,495,400.00 chargeable against PNOG-EDC fund. The contract duration is One (1) year. The pricing rates shall be based on the prevailing ACEL guidebook.

Application Forms for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be secured from the PNOG-EDC Contracts Administration Group (c/o Narmie P. Celina) starting August 8, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Two Hundred (P200.00).

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 18, 2005, 10:00 AM at PNOG-EDC/SNGPF Admin Complex, Iloilo, Valencia, Negros Oriental.

Applications for Eligibility and sealed bids shall be received by the PNOG-EDC Contracts Administration Group at PNOG-EDC, 1st floor Bldg. 5, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, not later than 2:00 p.m. on August 30, 2005 and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

PNOG-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to abort the bidding process, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOG-EDC.

(SGD.) Francis M. Dolor  
BAC Chairman

(PD1--Aug. 15, 2005)

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## Apply risk management to your personal finance

By Reynaldo A. de Dios  
Contributor

MOST businessmen and entrepreneurs are thoroughly familiar with the financial status of their respective entities and in general use the principles of risk management to protect their resources, both physical and human.

Failure to do so could affect the stability of their organizations and ultimately impact on their bottom line.

The concept of risk manage-

ment is now in common use by the country's top managers and entrepreneurs but, surprisingly, many of them overlook or neglect to apply this management discipline to their personal finances. In the case of an untimely demise, this could be prejudicial to the best interests of their families and loved ones.

It would be wise for all heads of families to take time out and review their current personal balance sheets. This would enable them to determine the status of their assets and liabilities, gauge

their potential income from varied sources other than salaries and bonuses, and thus plan more effectively for the future.

The sudden demise of the breadwinner will certainly shake the foundation of the family, especially if the surviving spouse is not made aware of what exactly has been left behind. This is a somewhat morbid thought but one has to be realistic about death.

On the other hand, living too long is also a risk to consider and in this situation, one solution is to

build up adequate liquid resources to cover medical, hospital or caregiver expenses during the sunset years. A genuine pre-need product like a memorial plan should also be considered to spare the family from having to attend to the multifarious details preparatory to a burial or cremation.

Personal risk management therefore is of primary importance and calls for the development and implementation of a total coordinated plan to achieve the financial objectives of an indi-

vidual or family.

The techniques involved in managing personal risk include insurance and other financial tools such as estate planning and tax minimization. Estate planning is the process of making arrangements for the efficient transfer of property during lifetime or at death, from one person to another person or persons. It concentrates on techniques that provide for the orderly transfer of assets to heirs or survivors with the primary objective of minimizing tax assessments. Professional

tax planning can make a considerable difference in the size of one's estate to heirs. Life insurance is often used as an estate planning tool since the proceeds of a policy to an irrevocably designated beneficiary is free from tax. However, one must ensure that the life insurance policies are up to date in premium payments to prevent the policies from lapsing. This can provide the liquidity needed to meet tax obligations on real property and contribute greatly to the conservation of the

APPLY/B2-2

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# A lady and her mobile mortuary business

By Hazel P. Villa  
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Ask her anything about death—from embalming, running a funeral home to consoling grief-stricken relatives—and this fourth generation scion of Iloilo's longest-running mortuary business can give you all the answers.

Mercy Somo-Espartero, 56, had been the general manager of family-owned Somo Memorial Homes Inc. on Delgado Street in downtown Iloilo City for 25 years. She learned that the mortuary business was not for the faint-hearted.

No, she was not referring to the fear of the dead but to dealing with and surviving the business challenges that go with this highly competitive industry.

When she retired from SMHI three years ago, Espartero did not walk away from the mortuary business. Instead, she used her vast experience in the business to provide a "wherever and whenever" type of service with herself as "central office."

Espartero put up Mercy Legacy Services in May 2005. Family or friends of a deceased need not go to a funeral parlor but simply can call her to handle their funeral needs "as efficiently as any established mortuary."

Her "mobile memorial services" banks on her reputation as former general manager of SMHI. But it is the trust and reputation she has built around herself that make people call her.

When she first opened her innovative mortuary business, she immediately got six clients "for the simple reason that they trust me to do it. These are all my friends."

She explained that the concept of "wherever and whenever" is not limited to services in Iloilo alone but also anywhere in Panay.

## Family legacy

Espartero is the sixth child of eight children of the late Teodorico Somo, founder of the Iloilo Somo Memorial, and his wife Virginia.

Teodorico, the youngest, was the only Somo to bring the family's mortuary business to Iloilo City while eldest brother Ramon managed the business in its home base in Sta. Barbara town, Iloilo.

Espartero says it was the family patriarch, her grandfather Alejandro Somo who first went into embalming. This was before the two world wars. He is believed to be the first in Iloilo to do professional embalming services.

She too got so ingrained in the family business that when you say "Somo," the first thing that comes to the Ilonggo's mind is Mercy because they had dealt with her for so long.

Espartero says the family legacy and her expertise in the mortuary business urged her to put up MLS even after retirement.

The way she conducts business in this "mobile mortuary," she says, is a trade secret.

But she adds that it only takes a call from her to any of the reputable funeral homes aside from Somo Memorial Homes for a complete package of professional funeral services.

Her business come-on is: "Wherever and

whenever, just call me and I will attend to your funeral needs."

## Woman's sensitivity

A mother of three grownups, she uses her cellular phone to immediately call back the bereaved family in a soothing voice rather than just texting them back.

After all, she has learned that although the mortuary business is "not a job for a woman," it calls for a woman's sensitivity to deal with the grief and anger of the bereaved.

"You have to uphold your tenacity and steadfastness. This is not the same as selling clothes or toys. It's a 24-hour job. There are times I bleed for the family but I have to be strong for them because they trust me to put things in order because they do not know how since they are overwhelmed with grief," says Espartero, an AB English graduate of the Central Philippine University in Iloilo.

MLS was also born out of her belief that the mortuary business is best operated by a single proprietor.

"The advantage of a single proprietorship is that you run the whole show," says Espartero, who brought the professionalism of Somo in MLS.

"My approach is very professional even with the details such as the preparation of the face of the deceased. With our workmanship, you will not be afraid to go near your loved one because he will look like he is just sleeping because of the quality of work that we do. The makeup, materials are all class A," she says.

Among the many things she learned are reactions of people to grief, which she categorized into four: acceptance, which is often found in the family of those who died from a lingering illness; resentment for those whose beloved died suddenly; ambivalence, which carries with it a numb "matter-of-fact" attitude but is troublesome because the family has the tendency to ignore preparations due to their anger; and denial where the family contradicts reality because they could not yet accept the death of the loved one.

"If there is anything you want to say to your loved ones like 'I love you,' 'I'm sorry,' 'I'll always be here for you,'—today is the best day because death comes like a thief in the night," says Espartero.

It is not all work for this lady who has dealt with as many deceased as with the living. Among her other projects is to help give decent burial to the poor.

"If only I can achieve that, I have done my part in this world. I feel this is my mission to help people. This project is more for the good of the people. I might have a hard time with this but with God's grace and mercy, I know I can make it. I give back all the glory to God for the many blessings He has showered," says Espartero.

It isn't everyday that one hears of a "mobile mortuary" business but Somo-Espartero always believed there is always room for innovations, even in the most established and traditional of industries.



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See flyers for details. Per DTI NCH Permit No. 4359, Series of 2005

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## An oriental garden in Makati

THE LOTUS Tower of the Oriental Garden Makati, with 378 units, is expected to be completed this month, complementing the previously constructed 390 unit Orchid Tower. Over 300 units or 77 percent of the Orchid Tower has already been turned over to homeowners since its completion in July last year, with the remaining 5 percent still available to the public. The Lotus Tower also has units left.

Oriental Garden Makati is owned by Federal Land, the property arm of the Metrobank Group.

Because of its strategic location, Oriental Garden provides buyers an array of cityscapes through its floor-to-ceiling window features. Take in Makati's night-time city lights, neighboring Parañaque's wide open suburb-like fields, or the breathtaking Manila Bay sunset.

Other amenities include two lobby entrances, three high-speed elevators for each tower, secure dual entrances from either Chino Roces Avenue or Export Avenue, and a zone of conveniences for daily needs such as a coffee shop, Metrobank branch, Internet café and computer shop at the ground floor. Units include a parking slot and provisions for cable TV, washer and dryer hookups, standby electricity generator, and telephone lines.

Units include a studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom and penthouse units in either of the twin tower, and payment terms as affordable as ₱14,000 per month.

"The upfront and uncomplicated steps in choosing your dream home espouses the calm, low-key and exclusive lifestyle itself that Federal Land knows its valued clients look for," Federal Land first VP for marketing Ramon Aldaba said.

For inquiries, call 889-6414 or 889-4900 or e-mail [inquiry@federal-land.com.ph](mailto:inquiry@federal-land.com.ph) for more information.



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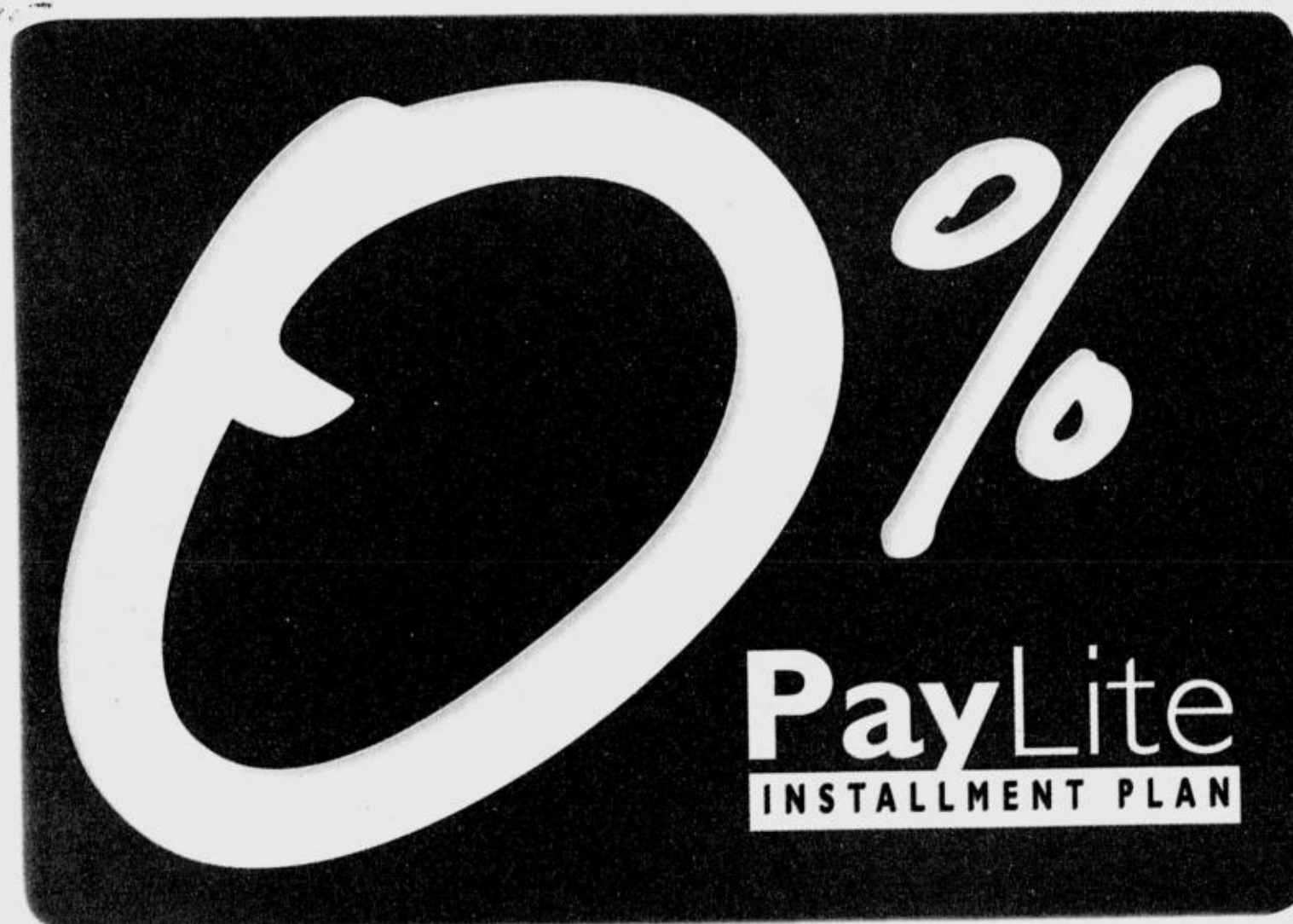
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"We are extremely proud and honored with this latest achievement," said Citibank's Country Business Manager for Global Consumer Group Nina Aguas. "This is a clear indication that Citibank is the credit card brand preferred by more Filipinos."

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4805, Series of 2005

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4258, Series of 2005  
See Rules for more details

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"As we celebrate our One Million Credit Card milestone, we want to show our sincere appreciation to our cardholders by renewing our commitment to offer them the best value for their money. And offering 0% for a wide array of purchases, in more merchants, in over 300 stores nationwide, is one big way to say thank you," related Michellina Triwardhany, Citibank's Cards Business Director.

Ongoing until December 31, 2005, this exciting offer gives shoppers the chance to choose from a wider selection of products & services in participating merchant establishments at 0%. With this exclusive privilege for Citibank cardholders, now is the best time to enroll in a fitness program, invest in a personal computer for the family, or simply update your wardrobe.

"Several of the participating merchants in this promotion are accepting PayLite for the first time, so this will definitely give our cardholders an enhanced shopping experience," added Citibank Vice President for Cards Marketing Jenny Lacerna.

Citibank cardholders can take advantage of 0% interest deals when shopping for home furnishings in Homeplus, Sogo and Blims Fine Furniture and look fashionable while doing it after visiting Marks & Spencer. Cardholders can likewise enhance their fitness and beauty at Slimmers World, Face and Body Clinic, Marie France, Facial Care and Svenson Hair. For efficient transportation, cardholders can get the best scooters at Manila Imperial.

Complementing this latest addition of new stores are the usual favorite outlets where PayLite is popularly used. For your appliances and electronics needs, head over to Abenson, L. Abenson, Avant, Electroworld, Anson Emporium, SM Appliance Center, Ambassador Appliance, Automatic Centre, Sony Shop, AV Surfer, Best Brands, Western Marketing and Bose. For the latest computers, check out Comlink, E-Hub, Silicon Valley, The Computer Authority, Future Link and Villman Computer.

PayLite is a unique privilege available to all Citibank cardholders. It doesn't require any pre-enrollment so you can immediately visit any of the participating establishments and use PayLite for purchases worth at least P3,000. PayLite offers increased financial flexibility because you enjoy longer and lighter payment terms of 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly installments.

Aside from enjoying 0% interest in more establishments during the special promotion, Citibank cardholders who own a Citibank Visa or MasterCard, Silver or Gold variant, and Citibank Visa Platinum, also get the chance to be among the 15 lucky cardholders who can win a total of 8 million Rewards points in Citibank's "One Million Thanks To You" raffle.

To join and qualify, cardholders must register his or her Citibank credit card via text message following this format: CITI <space> LAST TEN (10) DIGITS OF THEIR CITIBANK CREDIT CARD NUMBER then send it to 2366 for SMART, Talk 'N Text, Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers. Registration is free of charge.

Every valid P1,000 transaction between August 1 to October 29, 2005 (retail, cash advance, PayLite, balance transfer, Bill and Call for Cash) using the participating cards in a single receipt earns one (1) raffle entry.

There will be three raffle draws during the promotion period. For the first draw set on Sept. 7, 2005, there will be five winners of 100,000 Rewards Points each. During the second draw on Oct. 7, 2005, there will be five winners of 500,000 Rewards Points. Finally, on the grand draw on Dec. 15, 2005, there will be five winners of 1,000,000 Rewards Points.

For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to [www.citibank.com.ph](http://www.citibank.com.ph). To apply for a Citibank credit card, call 423-3000.



sumers," maintained Michellina Triwardhany, Citibank's Cards Business Director.

"With 'One Million Thanks To You', we want to show our appreciation to our loyal cardholders," said Triwardhany. "And what better prize to give away than Rewards Points, which will empower them to choose their winnings."

Citibank pioneered the concept of Rewards Points in the early 90s to reward cardholders for their spending. Every P30 spent on Citibank MasterCard and Visa earns one Rewards Point, which can be exchanged for gifts, appliances, air miles, gift certificates

or waived annual fees. The concept was such a tremendous success that it became the industry benchmark that was soon replicated by other industry players.

Owners of Citibank MasterCard and Visa, Silver and Gold variants, as well as Citibank Visa Platinum, are qualified to join. From August 1 until October 29, 2005, every P1,000 single transaction on a Citibank card, whether a retail purchase, cash advance, PayLite installment, 1Bill, balance transfer or Call for Cash, will earn one raffle entry.

New approved applications also earn raffle chances. Citibank Silver MasterCard/ Visa get 3 raffle

entries while Citibank Gold MasterCard/ Visa will have 5 raffle entries. New Citibank Platinum Visa cardmembers will be entitled to 8 raffle chances, while approved applications for supplementary cards for participating types of Citibank cards will get 2 raffle entries.

To join the promotion, cardholders must register his or her Citibank credit card via text message following this format: CITI <space> LAST TEN (10) DIGITS OF THEIR CITIBANK CREDIT CARD NUMBER then send to 2366 for SMART, Talk 'N Text, Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers.

Cardholders will then receive a text message, confirming their successful registration for the promotion. Registration is free of charge.

Registration of the primary cardholder automatically qualifies all other eligible Citibank credit cards under his account.

Online transactions at [www.citibank.com.ph](http://www.citibank.com.ph) also win raffle chances. Cardholders get 1 raffle entry when they enroll for Citibank Electronic Statements or Citibank Alerts Service. Bonus raffle entries will also be given for every approved Gold, Silver and Supplementary application made online.

There will be three raffle draws during the promotion period. For the first draw set on Sept. 7, 2005, there will be five winners of 100,000 Rewards Points each. During the second draw on Oct. 7, 2005, there will be five winners of 500,000 Rewards Points. Finally, on the grand draw on Dec. 15, 2005, there will be five winners of 1,000,000 Rewards Points.

So whip out your Citibank cards and join the race to win 1,000,000 Rewards Points.

For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to [www.citibank.com.ph](http://www.citibank.com.ph). To apply for a Citibank credit card, call 423-3000.

ADVT.

## Citibank One Bill take care of your utility bills

Enroll your accounts now  
and win one-year free payments!

Bills, bill, bills. Not only do you have to cough up the cash to settle your accounts, you also need to make sure you do so on time. And when you pay the last utility bill for the month, you're likely to find that there's another round of bills waiting to be paid for the coming month.

Good thing Citibank cardholders have a worry-free option: the Citibank One Bill. More and more cardholders are now using this built-in bills payment facility of Citibank credit cards because it saves them the time and hassle of missed payments and remembering dates. With Citibank One Bill, you can pay for your Meralco, PLDT, SMART, Globe Handyphone, Digitel, Sun Cellular, Sky Cable, Home Cable, Global Destiny Cable, Infocom, Pacific Internet, ZPDEE, Net Direct and Dream Satellite TV. You can enroll these service providers and have your bills automatically charged to your Citibank credit card every month.

And in celebration of its One Million Credit Card milestone, Citibank recently launched a promotion that will reward four lucky cardholders with free payments for their utility bills - for one whole year!

"This is in line with our One Million Thanks To You promotion, where we want to reward our cardholders for their loyal support to Citibank cards. For Citibank One Bill, our particular offer is we will pay their utility bills for one year, if they win in any of our three raffle draws," related Jenny Lacerna, Citibank's Vice President for Cards Marketing.

Each new utility bill enrolled in Citibank One Bill from August 8 to October 31, 2005 gives the cardholder one raffle entry in the promotion. If you win, you won't have to worry about paying that bill for an entire year.

One lucky cardholder will be picked on September 7, 2005 and again on October 7, 2005. For the third and final draw on November 7, 2005, two lucky cardholders will be selected.

For the lucky cardholders, Citibank will pay as much as P10,000 every month for one year for their winning utility bill enrollment.

Aside from this promotion, Citibank cardholders who own a Citibank Visa or MasterCard, Silver or Gold variant, and Citibank Visa Platinum, also get the chance to be among the 15 lucky cardholders who can win a total of 8 million Rewards points in Citibank's "One Million Thanks To You" raffle.

To join and qualify, cardholders must register his or her Citibank credit card via text message following this format: CITI <space> LAST TEN (10) DIGITS OF THEIR CITIBANK CREDIT CARD NUMBER then send it to 2366 for SMART, Talk 'N Text, Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers. Registration is free of charge.

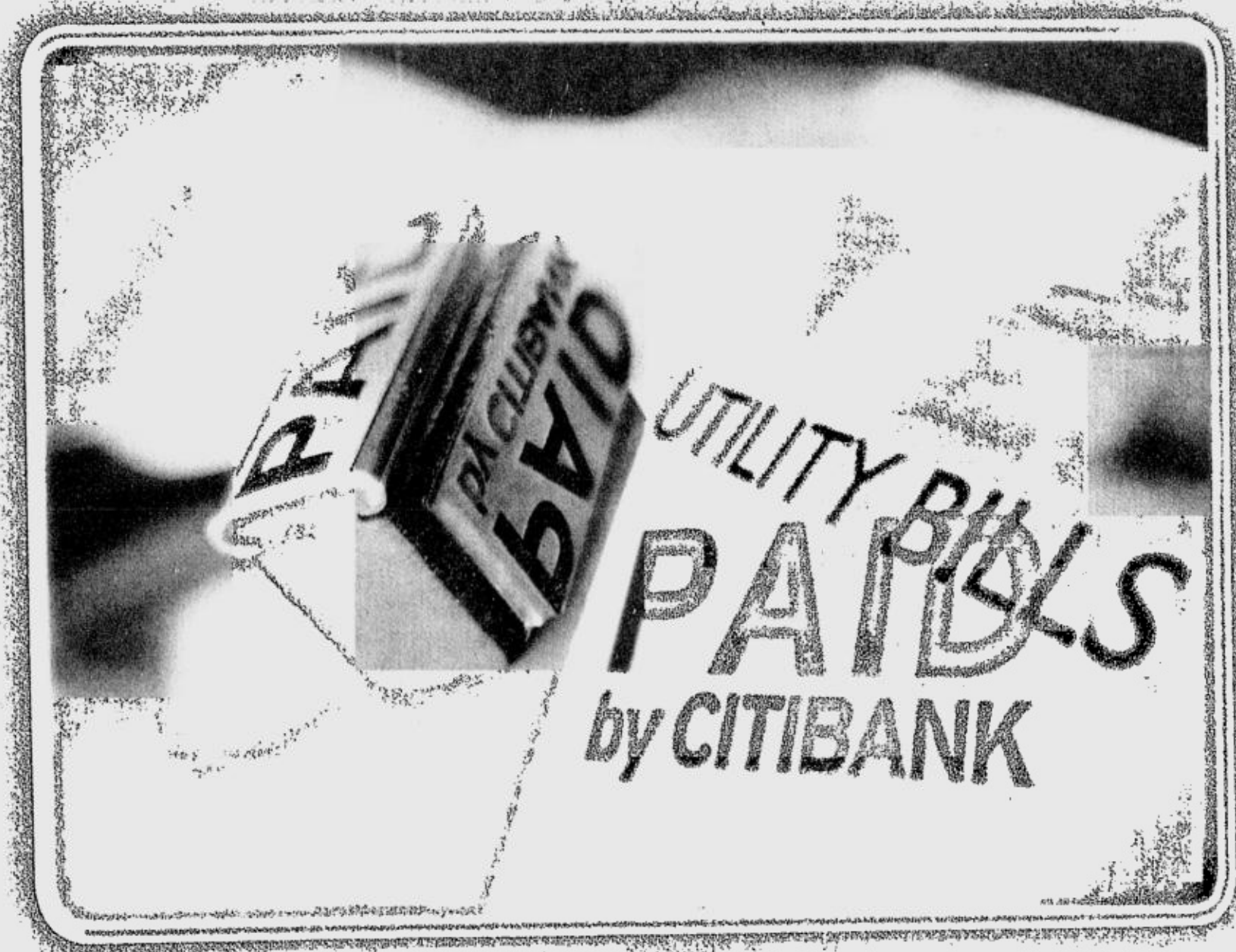
Every valid P1,000 transaction between August 1 to October 29, 2005 (retail, cash advance, PayLite, balance transfer, One Bill and Call for Cash) using the participating cards in a single receipt earns one (1) raffle entry. New approved card applications and online transactions during the promotion period also earn raffle chances.

There will be three raffle draws: the first draw is set on Sept. 7, 2005, where there will be five winners of 100,000 Rewards Points each; the second draw is on Oct. 7, 2005, where there will be five winners of 500,000 Rewards Points; and the grand draw is on Dec. 15, 2005, where there will be five winners of 1,000,000 Rewards Points.

To know more about Citibank One Bill and the One Million Thanks To You promotions, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or log on to [www.citibank.com.ph](http://www.citibank.com.ph). To apply for a Citibank card, call 423-3000.



### It's your chance to have Citibank One Bill pay for your bill for a whole year!



In celebration of our one millionth card, we're giving you the chance to have Citibank pay for your utility bill for a whole year! Each new utility bill that you enroll in Citibank One Bill through any Citibank Credit Card from August 8 to October 31, 2005 gives you one (1) raffle entry in the Citibank One Bill raffle promo. If you win, you'll never have to worry about that bill for an entire year!

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 1005 Series of 2005

More thanks! Every PhP1,000 worth of approved utility bills enrolled in Citibank One Bill through your Citibank Silver or Gold MasterCard, Citibank Silver or Gold VISA and Citibank VISA Platinum Card earns you a raffle entry to the Citibank Credit Card "1 Million Rewards" raffle promo for a chance to win 1 Million Citibank Rewards Points!

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4259 Series of 2005  
See flyers for more details

To enroll in Citibank One Bill,  
call 423-3000 or log on to [www.citibank.com.ph](http://www.citibank.com.ph)

One million thanks to you!

Participating utility companies:



Have the necessary information about your utility accounts ready. Wait for a confirmation letter from Citibank.

How to join:

- Each new approved utility account enrollment in Citibank One Bill entitles you to one (1) raffle entry.
- Entries will be awarded on a per utility account basis. 1 new approved utility account enrollment = 1 raffle entry.
- Winning entry will be paid for by Citibank up to a maximum amount of PhP 10,000/month for 12 consecutive months. See flyers for details.

**citibank**



# Marketing experts share strategies and best practices in Pana seminar

**T**HE PHILIPPINE Association of National Advertisers (Pana) is set to conduct the first ever Pana MBA: Marketing and Brand Advancement at The Loft, Rockwell, Makati City on Aug. 18 and 19. The pioneering seminar will focus on providing participants with information on the most important skills and strategies needed for an effective and successful marketing practice in the country. This includes best practices and breakthrough concepts in the key areas of research, product development, supply chain management and marketing communications.

Open to all marketing professionals, entrepreneurs and students, the Pana MBA will be facilitated by reputable practitioners known in the industry for their foresight and landmark achievements to be led by keynote speaker Wilfred Steven Uytengsu Jr, president and COO of Alaska Milk Corp. Uytengsu has been instrumental in Alaska Milk's consistent brand leadership in the liquid canned milk category through the decades. Under him, the brand also managed to establish a strong and growing position in the powdered milk industry.

Among the distinguished panel of speakers

include Millward Brown Asia Pacific director for marketing solutions Shivkumar Moulee and AC Nielsen Philippines executive director Freddie Magpantay who will both discuss the pivotal role played by research in the industry. To speak on innovative approaches to product development are Unilever Philippines marketing manager Benjie Yap and Nokia Philippines marketing head Sidharth Singh.

Also in the roster of speakers are industry stalwarts like IDS Logistics managing director Noel Bautista, who will discuss the supply chain management; and Nestlé Philippines senior vice president Robert Vallender; Procter & Gamble Philippines country media manager Pauline Lao with Wyeth Philippines associate marketing director Ging Rose S. Dobles, who will take turns delving on the critical issues concerning product positioning.

The culminating session will have McCann Erickson Philippines senior vice president/ chief strategy officer Nandy Villar along with TBWA-Santiago, Mangada, Puno managing partner Jimmy Santiago and LOWE Worldwide executive creative director Raul Castro give back-to-back discourses on the intricate points that make marketing communications successful.

The Pana MBA: Marketing and Brand Advancement is made possible through participation of its co-presenter the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The major sponsors include ABS-CBN, Summit Media, GMA, Splash, Philippine Airline and Stratworks Inc. Also taking part as minor sponsors are



ROBERT Vallender, SVP for supply chain management, Nestlé



SHIVKUMAR Moulee, director, marketing solutions, Millward Brown Asia Pacific



RAUL Castro, executive creative director, LOWE Worldwide



PAULINE Lao, country media manager, Procter and Gamble Philippines



NOEL Bautista, managing director, IDS Logistics



NANDY Villar, SVP/chief strategy officer, McCann Erickson



JIMMY Santiago, managing partner, TBWA-Santiago, Mangada, Puno



FREDDIE Magpantay, executive director, AC Nielsen



BENJIE Yap, marketing manager for oral care and home care, Unilever Philippines



WILFRED Steven Uytengsu, president and COO, Alaska Milk Corp.

The Coca Cola Export Corp., "Eat Bulaga", Sky DSL, MBC, RMN and Signum Events.

Registration fee for delegates is P5,000 for professionals and P2,500 for students and members of the

academe. Pana will also be giving one complimentary seat for every group of five delegates coming from the academe. For registration inquiries, interested parties can call the Pana secretariat at (632) 894-

0474 to 75, 894-0012 to 13. Further details are also available at Pana website [www.pana.com.ph](http://www.pana.com.ph) or text PANA <space> name <space> company/school <space> message and send to 0917-8902327.

## Low-cost, high-profit Ozone water station

A LOW-COST, high-volume, compact, high-tech Ozonated Ultra Violet Water Station is what you need to be cost-efficient and profitable in the water refilling business. The obsolete and expensive way of throwing away (backwash) seven out of 10 gallons of water (typical for a reverse osmosis system) is environmentally unfriendly. RO doesn't even kill germs and is expensive to maintain (with the exorbitantly priced membranes. In

"ozonation", Ozone (O3-triple oxygen) radical gases kill germs on contact 300 times better and safer than chlorine.

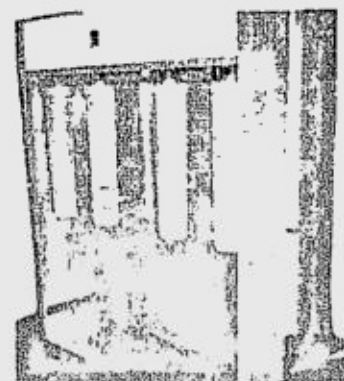
The Electromex UHP500 is ultra-compact at 4 feet x 4 feet x 6 feet (inclusive of the tanks) and complete with the US-made filters and European-made stainless pump head and high-energy Ultra Violet Germicidal Lamp and heavy-duty Ozone Generator. This machine delivers five gallons a minute (3,000 gallons in a

half-day operation). Electromex doesn't need any royalties or prohibitive franchise fees because the machine is "plug and play" (portable). There's also no need to drill, cement, or dig.

You can even buy the replacement generic filters at any SM or Robinson hardware stores for as low as P200. The machine takes only an hour to install and uses up only 1 horse power on a 220-volt outlet. At a cost of only 30 centavos per gallon,

this machine is perfect for any small barangay. Ozone is being used by the Los Angeles Water District and by most systems in France, Germany and Switzerland.

Call Electromex at 531-6782 or 535-9069, or visit its offices at 287 L. Cruz corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City.



THE ELECTROMEX UHP 500

## JOIN... BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES '06

05 & 06 October 2005, Plenary Hall, Philippine International Convention Center, (PICC)

## Cooperatives: Creating Opportunities for All

Do you know there are over 28,000 operating cooperatives in the country and 85% of them are engaged in credits and loans? There are at least 10 billionaire cooperatives some of them with over 75,000 members. They are one of the most dynamic but largely untapped business engines in the country. If properly harnessed, their collective power can help create growth miracles all over the country.

### ...for Businessmen & Service Providers

Catch an excellent opportunity to work, interact, and establish strategic financial and marketing alliances with some of these 28,000 operating cooperatives in the country.

### ...for Cooperatives

Featuring discussions by business experts and consultants on strategies, mechanisms and structures and a priceless opportunity for networking to expand business horizons for your cooperatives.

JOIN THIS BUSINESS FORUM AND UNLEASH YOUR COOPERATIVE'S & BUSINESS' GREATEST POTENTIAL!!!

A Three-in-One event featuring:

- ❖ Plenary Sessions
- ❖ Product Development Clinic
- ❖ Business Excellence Award for SMEs

ORGANIZED & SPONSORED BY:



PHILIPPINE SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



GLOBE TELECOM INC.



ABS-CBN



LANDBANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Co-Organized by:

National Cooperative Movement, Philippine Cooperative Center, Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives, Metro Manila Federation of Cooperatives, Metro South Cooperative Bank, National Market Vendors Confederation of Cooperatives, Koperasi ng Pangasinan ng Pilipinas Inc., National Confederation of Cooperatives, Cooperative Union of the Philippines, Philippine Federation of Teachers & Employees Cooperatives, Union of Metro Manila Cooperatives, Cooperative Education and Development Center and all the secondary and primary cooperatives in the Philippines.

Institutional Partners and Major Supporters:

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY • DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM • DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS • DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY • DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • PRODUCTIVITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER • DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES • CIDA-PIARL2 PROJECT • ASIAN PRODUCTIVITY OFFICE (APO-JAPAN) • GLOBE TELECOM INC. • INNOVATE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. • LANDBANK OF THE PHILIPPINES • PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER • MEDIA24 CORPORATION (ComputerWorld Philippines, Enterprise Magazine), ABS-CBN TRANSPORT SYSTEM • ABS-CBN EXPRESS • DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES • PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PALJOY) • SCHIBER JARDIN & INTERIORS • SUPER FERRY

## PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 5, 2005

(8:00 am - 6:00 pm, Plenary Hall, PICC)

|               |                                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 - 9:00   | Registration                                              |
| 9:00 - 10:00  | Networking Session                                        |
| 10:00 - 10:15 | Coffee Break                                              |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Opening of Product Development Clinic & Exhibits          |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Opening Ceremony (Separate Program)                       |
| 11:00 - 11:45 | 1st Plenary Session: "How to Choose the Right Coop Setup" |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Open Forum                                                |
| 12:00 - 12:30 | Lunch Break (Raffle Draw of Prizes)                       |
| 12:30 - 1:15  | Entertainment/Intermission                                |
| 1:15 - 1:45   | Globe IT Solutions for SMEs                               |
| 1:45 - 2:00   | Open Forum                                                |
| 2:00 - 2:45   | 2nd Plenary Session: "IT Improves Coop Networking"        |
| 2:45 - 3:00   | Open Forum                                                |
| 3:00 - 3:15   | Coffee Break (Raffle Draw of Prizes)                      |
| 3:15 - 4:15   | 3rd Plenary Session: "Novice Marketing for Cooperative"   |
| 4:15 - 4:30   | Open Forum                                                |
| 4:30 - 6:00   | Networking/Product Consultancy                            |

OCTOBER 6, 2005

(8:00 am - 6:00 pm, Plenary Hall, PICC)

|               |                                                                                          |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:45 - 9:45   | 4th Plenary Session: "Product Development Ensures Sustainability of Cooperative Sales"   |
| 9:45 - 10:00  | Open Forum                                                                               |
| 10:00 - 10:15 | Coffee Break (Raffle Draw of Prizes)                                                     |
| 10:15 - 10:45 | 5th Plenary Session: "Importance of Asset Management to Cooperative"                     |
| 10:45 - 11:00 | Open Forum                                                                               |
| 11:00 - 11:45 | 6th Plenary Session: "Breaking Barriers, Continuous Education for Cooperatives"          |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Open Forum                                                                               |
| 12:00 - 12:30 | Lunch Break (Raffle Draw of Prizes)                                                      |
| 12:30 - 1:30  | 2005 Business Excellence Awards for SMEs                                                 |
| 1:30 - 2:30   | 7th Plenary Session: "Green Technology for Global Acceptance of Cooperative Produce"     |
| 2:30 - 2:45   | Open Forum                                                                               |
| 2:45 - 3:00   | Coffee Break (Raffle Draw of Prizes)                                                     |
| 3:00 - 4:00   | 8th Plenary Session: "Experiences and Future: Credit, Savings and Cooperative Financing" |
| 4:00 - 4:15   | Open Forum                                                                               |
| 4:15 - 4:30   | Coffee Break (Raffle Draw of Prizes)                                                     |
| 4:30 - 6:00   | Closing Ceremony (Separate Program)                                                      |

## Registration/Reservation Form

sent by fax: (632) 8342994 or email to: [philsmed@phlinter.net](mailto:philsmed@phlinter.net)

Please tick the appropriate box:  
☐ I want to join the Business Opportunities Forum for Cooperatives "BioCoops '06"  
☐ I want to exhibit at the BioCoops Product Development Clinic  
☐ I want to be a sponsor

Cooperative / Business Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative / Delegate: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Web: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Product/Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Fees and Other Details:

P 2,000.00 for early bird registration received before August 31, 2005 per person inclusive of meals and forum kit

\* Late or walk-in participants registration is P 2,500.00 per person

\* Limited exhibit area of 2m x 2m size at P12,000.00/booth (inclusive of transport, table and 2 chairs)

\* Special hotel rates and tour programs available. Please check our website: [www.philsmed.com.ph](http://www.philsmed.com.ph)

Payment Details:

You can register online and pay directly to our office (see address at the back) by check made out to Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation. You can also pay through our bank, Bank of the Philippine Islands

current account of Philippine Small and Medium Business Development Foundation No. 050-101-5881. Once you have

paid using C-CASH by texting "PAYMENT AMOUNT" to "PANA", then send to Mobile No. 0917-341-1337. The payoff

should send the registration form together with the duplicate of the deposit slip directly to PHILSMED Foundation or to

the designated co-organizing federation/union of cooperatives who in turn will forward it to PHILSMED Foundation



## RP sits on gold mine

RESPONSIBLY harnessing the Philippines' \$840 billion worth of untapped mineral deposits may well be the country's ticket to jumpstart its economy and join the world's elite league of newly industrialized countries.

This was the fearless forecast last week of Presidential Adviser for Minerals Development Delia Albert.

"I believe in harnessing our natural wealth," she said, adding that it was "hard to imagine that we're literally sitting on a gold mine, when many of our countrymen are mired in poverty."

Mining was the principal focus of Albert's diplomacy during her tour as Philippine envoy to Australia. During that time, she said she observed how well-managed the mining industry of that country was, and how the private sector put premium on environmental protection and the welfare of indigenous communities. She sees no reason why mining companies in the Philippines cannot replicate the best practices of mining firms in countries like Australia.

Albert cited the experience of Sagittarius Mines Inc. (SMI) in Tampakan, South Cotabato, as a benchmark for combining corporate vision and social

commitment.

When SMI began managing the Tampakan project in 2002, it immediately embraced education as one of its flagship programs, according to project coordinator Rolando Doria. At least 1,500 elementary to tertiary students are now scholars under the SMI-Tribal Foundation and SMI-Bgy. Development Council Scholarship programs.

In addition, Doria reported, more than 60 high school students and 2,400 elementary pupils from Colombio, Sultan Kudarat and Tampakan will no longer have to pay miscellaneous fees this school year under an expanded educational assistance program launched by the firm.

Two months ago, the company teamed up with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and the Tampakan municipal government to provide health benefits to some 1,500 indigent families in the host communities.

Doria added that SMI is poised to plant 50,000 trees each year until 2010. More than 500 seedlings were planted last month at Mt. Susong Dalaga, a Tampakan landmark, kicking off the reforestation program dubbed Maleh ToKayu.

## Wedding coordination course set

IMAGINE having an exciting, good paying career that lets you use your creativity to plan and organize the happiest day of people's lives. Few jobs offer as many benefits, few jobs can be as exciting, fun and rewarding as being a wedding coordinator or planner.

Now, becoming a professional wedding coordinator can become a reality as Rita Neri of The Wedding Store in cooperation with Assumption College offers its first of a two-part program on wedding coordination titled "Introduction to Professional Wedding Coordination" on Aug. 22 to 26 at the

Mother Carmen Graduate School Center of Assumption College, San Lorenzo Village in Makati City.

This comprehensive five-day course aims to educate and provide qualified individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to become a dedicated career professional in the field of wedding coordination.

A certificate of attendance shall be given to those who have attended at least four complete days of the course.

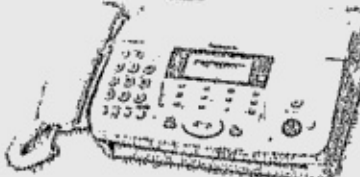
(For inquiries, call 840-1897, 840-3359, 893-0534 or e-mail at [giftcraft@pltdsl.net](mailto:giftcraft@pltdsl.net), [theweddingstore@yahoo.com](mailto:theweddingstore@yahoo.com))

## Panasonic ideas for life

The high performing fax machine. No wonder people choose Panasonic.



**KX-FT901**  
P 5,790

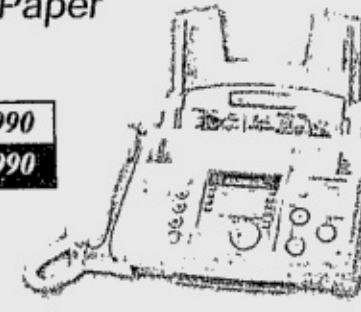


**KX-FT903**  
P 6,490



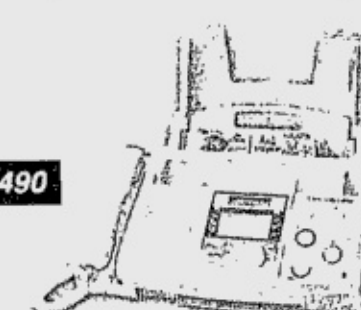
**KX-FT907**  
P 7,990

Plain Paper



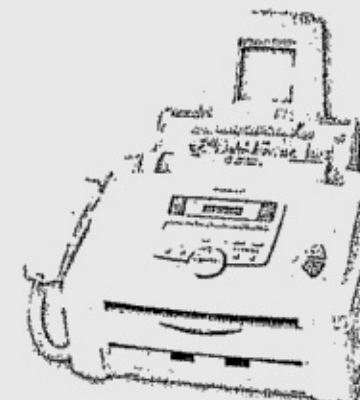
Before: P 7,990  
Now: P 6,990

**KX-FP342**



**KX-FP362**  
P 9,490

Laser



**KX-FL512**  
P 17,490

| KEY FEATURES             | KX-FT901  | KX-FT903       | KX-FT907       | KX-FP342       | KX-FP362       | KX-FL512        |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Automatic Paper Cutter   |           | ●              | ●              |                |                |                 |
| Document Feeder          | 10 sheets | 10 sheets      | 10 sheets      | 10 sheets      | 10 sheets      | 20 sheets       |
| Navigator Key            | ●         | ●              | ●              | ●              | ●              | ●               |
| 64-Level Halftone        | ●         | ●              | ●              | ●              | ●              | ●               |
| Copy Speed               |           |                |                | 4 PPM          | 4 PPM          | 10 PPM          |
| Digital Speaker Phone    |           |                | ●              |                | ●              |                 |
| Document Memory          |           | 20 pages (max) | 20 pages (max) | 28 pages (max) | 28 pages (max) | 170 pages (max) |
| Digital Answering System |           |                | ●              |                | ●              |                 |
| Sequential Broadcast     |           | 10 locations   | 10 locations   | 20 locations   | 20 locations   | 20 locations    |
| Printer Function         |           |                |                |                |                | ●               |
| Scanner Function         |           |                |                |                |                | ●               |
| *Caller-ID Ready         | ●         | ●              | ●              |                |                | ●               |
| Dial Lock Function       | ●         | ●              | ●              |                |                |                 |

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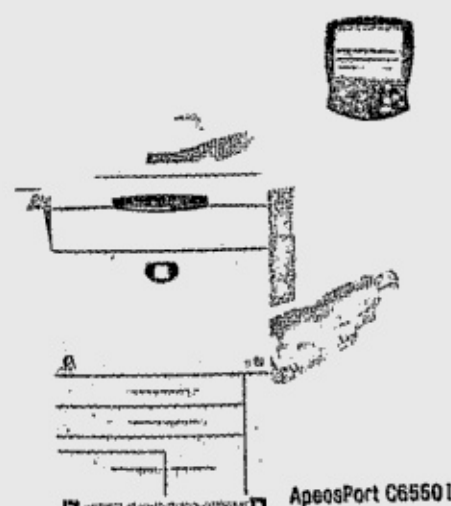
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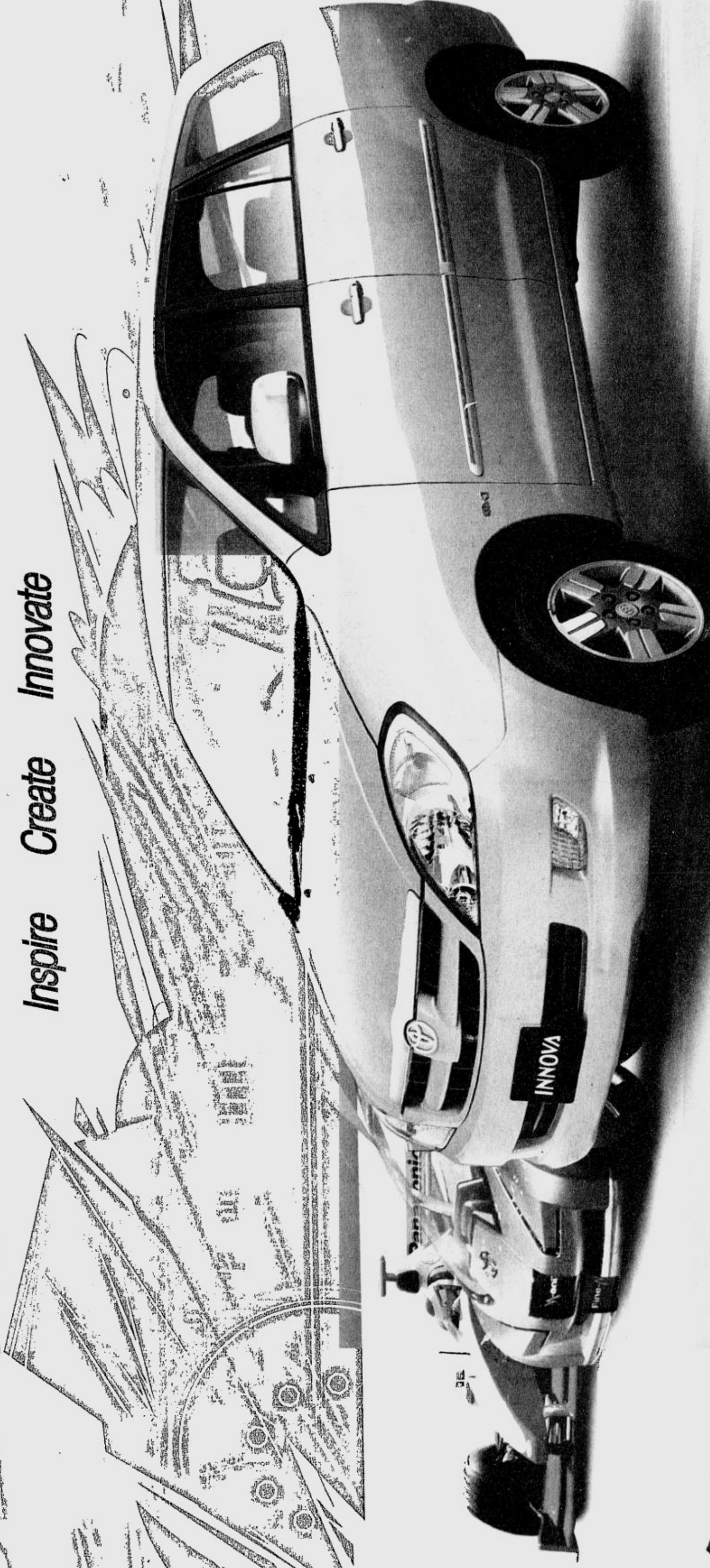


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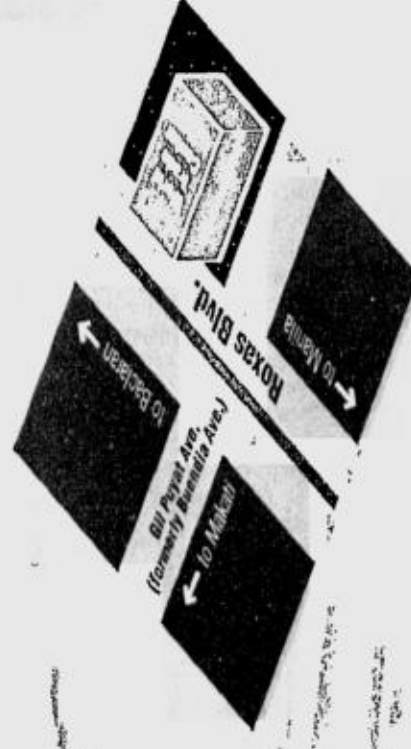
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# BUSINESSMonday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

## Getting through

### A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell



IN MANY ways, life is all about communicating. And nowhere is it more critical to be a strong communicator than in leading people and organizations. The best business leaders have the ability to effectively explain business fundamentals, strategy, alternatives, challenges and action plans in ways that tap into their employees' sense of meaning.

Many people think they are communicating when they provide information in the form of memos, e-mails, reports and the like.

But they're not. Information is giving out; communication is getting through. As you can imagine, there is a world of difference

between giving out facts, figures and other material and actually getting through to people.

I can't offer you one surefire method of communicating that is guaranteed to make your audience understand you completely every time you open your mouth. I can, however, describe nine vehicles that—when viewed correctly and used consistently—can help you get through more often. Here they are:

**Behavior.** It's a cliché, but it's true. Actions really do speak louder than words.

**Relationships.** The better the relationship, the better the communication.

**Emotions.** Laughter, tears, nervousness, anger—such emotions add a human dimension to your words and make what you're saying all the more powerful.

**Values.** When strong, consistent values are evident in your daily life, you enhance your credibility, which, in turn, improves your chances of being heard and under

A LEADER'S/B3-2

## Corporate generosity

OUR LAWS grant non-stock, non-profit (NSNP) corporations certain rights and privileges that are not enjoyed by private stock corporations.

This preferential treatment is premised on the assumption that NSNP corporations are organized to accomplish some noble social objective, rather than earn profits for their stockholders.

An NSNP corporation that meets the criteria of the Bureau of Internal Revenue can be exempted from the payment of income taxes. If this tax-free status is obtained, another form of financial relief often comes along: the donor's tax is not imposed on donations to the corporation.

Since tax breaks are strictly construed against the taxpayer, the NSNP corporation must prove its right to them and—this is the most critical—pass the appraisal interview by BIR personnel who can smell phony self-proclaimed do-gooders from a distance.

### Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

In exchange for the financial perks that are made available to NSNP corporations, however, the disposition of their properties is subjected to stricter rules of administration and disposition.

The extent to which an NSNP corporation can use its properties for loan transactions with a bank was the subject of a query with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### Collateral

A non-stock corporation organized for

CORPORATE/B3-2

# Anatomy of a leader

## How is one developed?

By Yoly Villanueva-Ong  
Contributor

THERE are established theories on how leaders are shaped. According to Bass, there are three ways to explain how people become leaders.

The first is the Contingency or Great Events Theory. Here, a crisis or a significant occurrence induces extraordinary leadership qualities in an ordinary person. The event is so striking that it impels the protagonist to step up to the plate.

The second theory is the Traits or Great Man Theory where the hypothesis is that some personality traits such as charisma, eloquence, intelligence or courage, naturally lead to a leadership role. These two theories explain leadership development for the chosen few.

The third premise is the one with the most widespread credence. This is the Constitutive or Transformational Leadership Theory. Here, the belief is that people can choose to be leaders and acquire the necessary leadership skills and qualities.

#### The Contingency Theory

Rosa Parks was a seamstress from Montgomery, Alabama. When she boarded the bus after a very long and arduous workday, she had no idea she would spark the bus boycott that would end racial segregation in Alabama. Rosa was just too exhausted to stand and give her seat to a white man as was required by law in 1955. Even the specter of punishment was not enough to get her off her seat. Parks was sick of the treatment African Americans received every day of their lives, the racism, segregation, and Jim Crow laws of the time.

"Our mistreatment was just not right, and I was tired of it," writes Parks in her recent book, *Quiet Strength*. "I kept thinking about my mother and my grandparents, and how strong they were. I knew there was a possibility of being mistreated, but an opportunity was being given to me to do what I had asked of others."

The rest of Parks' story is American history...her arrest and trial, a 381-day Montgomery bus boycott, and, finally, the Supreme Court's ruling in November 1956 that segregation on transportation is unconstitutional.

That day, from her quiet, mundane life, Rosa Parks was inadvertently catapulted into an accidental leader pushed to the front by a pivotal, life-changing incident.

#### The Transformational Theory

Mohandas Gandhi was born in 1869 to Hindu parents in Gujarat, Western India. It was arranged that he marry Kasturbai Makanji when both were 13 years old. He studied Law in London and passed the bar in 1891. In Southern Africa where he first practiced law, Gandhi witnessed the plight of the immigrant Indians. He led protests to improve their lot and was frequently jailed. Before he returned to India in 1915, he had radically changed the lives of the Indians in South Africa.

It was there that he formulated the Satyagraha or Truth Force, the creed of passive resistance against injustice. "Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man." This became the fundamental principle of Gandhi's vision.

Back in India, Gandhi was soon leading the long struggle for indepen-

dence from Britain. He was unshakable in his belief in nonviolent protest and religious tolerance. Whether it was the Muslims or Hindus engaging in violence against each other or the British colonizers, Gandhi would fast until the fighting ended. The 1947 Independence of India was not considered a military victory but the triumph of the human will.

To his despair, the country was divided into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan with ensuing riots that continued to the last two months of his life. He fasted to the brink of death that finally quelled the violence. In January 1948, an assassin killed him as he prayed. Gandhi was 79 years old, the epitome of a visionary.

Martin Luther King paid the highest homage to Gandhi's brand of transformational leadership when he said, "Gandhi was inevitable. If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a peace and harmony. We may ignore Gandhi at our own risk."

#### The Traits Theory

Last Aug. 5, at 9:15 a.m., a great Filipino leader succumbed to his battle with cancer. As was repeated in all the eulogies, Raul S. Roco was born to lead. From the age of 10, when he graduated with honors from elementary, he displayed his amazing intelligence, eloquence, courage and honor. He did not steal, cheat, abuse his power or lie to the people. I'd like to share excerpts of my tribute to Raul S. Roco, who I voted for President of the Philippines twice. I was the communications director of the Roco campaign for Presidency in 2004.

ANATOMY/B3-2

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# Anatomy of a leader

From page B3-1

I have only had the privilege of knowing Sen. Roco up close and personal for the last two years. So I can't even get myself to call him by his first name. To me, he was Sir.

## Roco, the warrior lawyer

Who would have believed that the day would come when everyone—from his most ardent admirers to his most critical detractors—will have only one thing to say about Raul Roco? That is, he was undoubtedly a great man. Some even add with a sense of deep loss—that “he was the greatest President this country never had.”

Now even when people mention his alleged “intellectual arrogance and that infamous short temper”—it is almost with the premise that all great men are expected to be impatient with mediocrity and incompetence. It came with the territory. And truth be told, if Sen. Roco made people feel like he knew more than they knew—it was because most of the time, he actually did.

His anathema for mediocrity was not exaggerated, as those of us who have had a chance to work with him know from personal and painful experience. You better know what you are talking about especially when you have a recommendation. Otherwise be prepared for an inquisition. If you cannot defend or answer his most probing questions, you should quickly have other ideas that were more thoroughly thought out.

After one such particularly grueling meeting, I was tempted to call Sonia (his wife) for advice. Instead, I asked one of his closest colleagues, Ernie Pangan, how he perseveres. And he told me, “Yoly, you must remember that Raul is a warrior lawyer. He loves debate. It's second nature to him.”

That insight probably kept us from throwing in the towel and shirking from our next dispute. At some point when he was arguing about advertising with me, I pointed at the trophies that lined our walls. My way of saying that in advertising, I actually know a thing or two that he doesn't. That bold gesture on my part actually made him pause, smile and begrudgingly say, “OK, I will bow to your professional judgment... this time.”

And of course our endless debates didn't end there. But at least now I knew that if I wanted him to listen, I must be able to prove my case beyond reasonable doubt. I made sure that I was 110-percent prepared for any proposal I gave. Senator Roco raised (what I thought were already very high professional standards) even higher.

One time, the team was pushing that he attend a forum and he was being very difficult. I

tried to argue our case on the phone but he put it down before I finished stating our reasons. I was so incensed that I texted his three cell phones the same message.

“The next president of the Philippines should learn to listen to everyone...even those that he doesn't agree with.”

The next morning I received a text from him that said “Sorry, I deserved that.” And he sent it to my three cell phones as well. When I saw him later that day, he said to me, “I am adding you to a very short list of people whom I allow to tell me off... whether you like it or not.”

I was stunned. Great men never, ever apologize. You are lucky if they even speak to you again specially if you didn't make any sense the last time. That was when I was convinced that this man truly was as human as he was great. I think it was at this point that I converted. I crossed the line from professional communicator to staunch believer.

Sadly, it was not to be. He wasn't the next President. We knew that after April 13, the day he flew for his medical check-up, (which was by the way my birthday so it is forever etched in my memory), we knew the campaign had become a crusade. The warrior lawyer is now the Last Samurai.

Raul Roco is not just a Great Man. He made ordinary people like us become greater than we believed we ever could be. That's why if there are tears on my face, it's not because he is gone. It's because in my opinion, we never deserved him.

But when I feel pangs of despair, I resort to this technique that Sen. Roco also used when he wanted to center, calm down or memorize his lines. It's called Mirror of the Mind, a meditation technique where you visualize.

I imagine that the funny e-mail that has been going around is a skit. God is explaining His philosophy of Creation to St. Michael the Archangel. He said it was all about “balance.” Saudi Arabia is practically all desert—so He put the richest oil fields beneath its sands. Scandinavian countries have cold, dark days practically all year long, so He gave them Nokia and Ericsson so they can connect even in the dead of winter. Then St. Michael points at the Philippines, which seemed to have it all: rich natural resources, beautiful beaches, fertile soil and talented people. God turned to him with a wink and said, “Have you seen the kind of leaders they have?”

Well now, we have our best legal mind to argue the case for us. And if there's anyone who can get that balance changed, the Warrior Lawyer can.

Thank you Sir. Please tell God to give us a break.

Feedback at [yolyo@campaignsandgrey.net](mailto:yolyo@campaignsandgrey.net)

From page B3-1

religious worship offered some of its real properties to a bank as collateral for a loan the organization was applying for and to “guarantee” the personal loan of some of its members.

While the bank was not worried about the paying capacity of the prospective debtors, it had serious doubts about the validity of the corporation's plan to encumber its properties for reasons that appeared to equate the interests of some members with those of their organization.

The SEC reviewed the primary objective that the corporation stated in its Articles of Incorporation. The statement of the purpose of a corporation's creation, whether for profit or not, is considered the guidepost in determining the scope of its corporate powers, especially in relation to its assets.

The agency took into consideration the opinion of an eminent law commentator that “... in the absence of express restrictions by a charter or statute, the management of a corporation has authority to enter into all contracts or

transactions which may reasonably be deemed incidental to its authorized business; but it has no authority to enter into contracts entirely foreign to the objects and purposes specified in its articles or charter.”

## Authority

Simply stated, everything that a corporation does should be measured against the reason for its existence. If an action will serve or promote that cause, then there is no legal obstacle to its implementation; otherwise, it is barred from proceeding with it.

With this as the backdrop, the SEC declared that there is nothing wrong with the subject NSNP corporation mortgaging its properties to secure a loan from the bank if its proceeds will be used to promote its primary objective: religious worship.

But the story is different if the pieces of property will be used as collateral for the personal loans of some of its members. The SEC said “guaranteeing the loans of third parties is not reasonably necessary or incidental to the purpose of religious worship.”

But what if the corporation makes “guaranteeing” the loans of its member as one of its objectives? Not even. The SEC ruled that the act in question “cannot be validated through the inclusion of such purpose in the Articles of Incorporation as it would not be in furtherance of the corporate objects and for the benefit of the corporation.”

Aside from keeping NSNP corporations within the bounds of their corporate powers, the instant SEC ruling reaffirms the long established principle that the personality of the corporation is separate and distinct from that of its members, and that their interests do not necessarily intersect.

**Food for thought.** A tax-exempt NSNP corporation that fails to maintain the qualifications that enable it to enjoy the benefits of that status runs the risk of its past and present financial papers being scrutinized for possible violation of the conditions for tax exemption. If the findings are adverse, the financial consequences—in terms of unpaid taxes, penalties and surcharges—can really hurt the pocket of the corporation.

# A leader's way

From page B3-1

stood.

**Words.** Whether written or spoken, words obviously are an integral part of communication. But don't use them carelessly. Good communicators stay away from sloppy grammar, foul language, run-on sentences and muddled explanations.

**Listening.** Communication isn't one-sided. Listening is one of the best ways you can truly connect with someone.

**Expressions.** If your mouth is saying one thing and your face is saying something else, your audience will listen to your face, every time. If you want to get through, make sure your expressions match your words.

**Compassion.** I've said it before and I'll say it again: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. If you want your communication to be effective, don't be afraid to show that you care.

**Change.** I'm not talking about change in a general sense here. I'm talking about personal change. It might involve breaking a bad habit, adjusting an attitude, revising expectations or even learning a new skill. Whatever the case, changing something about yourself can often open the door to improved communication.

I've given you nine ways to get through. But the communication puzzle has one more very important piece: integration.

Let me explain. If you use four of the nine of the nine vehicles consistently, you'll be a much better communicator than if you only use two of them. If you use eight of the nine, you'll get through more often than if you only use five. In other words, the more of the nine ways you use when you communicate, the more effective you're going to be.

Do you want to get through to the people you lead? If you do, evaluate how well you're utilizing these nine vehicles and begin adding the missing elements, one by one.

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LINIS-GANDA



## Helping some Pinoys realize their dreams

HELPING Filipinos working abroad learn how to handle their finances wisely is in the heart of BPI's Expat Pinoys program as it continues with its Expat Pinoy Learning Series (EXPL) wherein BPI goes nationwide and abroad to educate Filipinos in managing their money.

It is a reality that most Filipinos who go abroad sometimes come home empty-handed, not because they did not earn enough but because their sufficient income was not managed well. So, to bring in more money, they either go back or send other family members to work in their stead which makes migration to become a vicious cycle. BPI Expat Pinoys provide an answer to this problem through the EXPL which helps OFWs and their families handle their finances at home.

"The solution is saving an amount from your income before spending it. You also have

to look closely on your expenditures as well as on how you can increase your money through other viable means. That is wise financial management," says John Patrick Bisera, manager of the BPI remittance banking division. BPI instills in Expat Pinoys and their beneficiaries the value of saving and the new discipline of remittance.

Recently, BPI invited Armando "Butz" O. Bartolome, the country's franchising guru, to share with Expat Pinoys and their families points on how to start a business. "When you start a business, say a carinderia, it's not enough that you know how to cook. What is important is that you know how to manage your savings," Bartolome pointed out. He stressed the need for budgeting and financial planning. One effective way of starting a business is by obtaining franchises.

## Best option for OFWs

DMCI Homes, renowned for its essentially high-end yet affordable residential developments, is reaching out past national boundaries to help overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) achieve their dreams of owning a home.

The premier real estate firm said it has already posted several offices worldwide to directly apprise OFWs of a best-option package encouraging as well as guiding them to wisely invest their hard-earned money in buying their dream house.

As the real estate business arm of construction giant D.M. Consunji, Inc. DMCI Homes has already developed 12 residential communities on prime land following distinct design concepts. As a result, it has an array of fully-developed, ready-for-occupancy residential units available now especially to OFWs.

But should the new homeowner opt to continue working abroad and at the same time want to realize the full potentials of his property, he will still find DMCI Homes at his ser-

vice, ready to give him sound advice in that direction.

The company said it has set up an Asset Management Team that will oversee the lease administration of the OFWs' residential unit including maintenance and collection of rent on his behalf. "While still at work abroad, he gets additional income from leasing his property in the Philippines," the official added.

D.M. Consunji, Inc., being the construction affiliate of DMCI Homes, has been building local and international landmarks and residential communities all bearing exceptionally fine workmanship that can only come from its 50-year experience as a builder.

DMCI Homes' existing urban housing communities are perfect examples of this. Each of these residential developments offers resort features and modern amenities such as landscaped gardens, a playground, clubhouse with game and function rooms, swimming pool, basketball court and jogging and walking paths.

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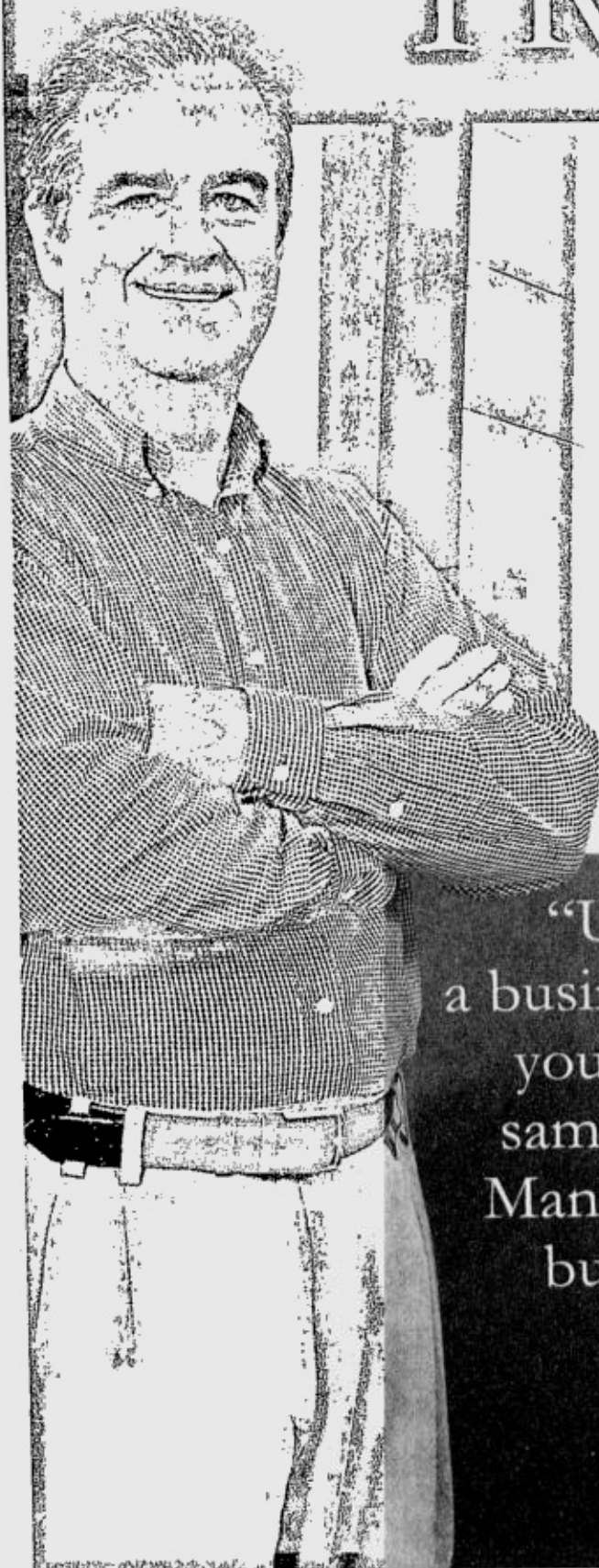
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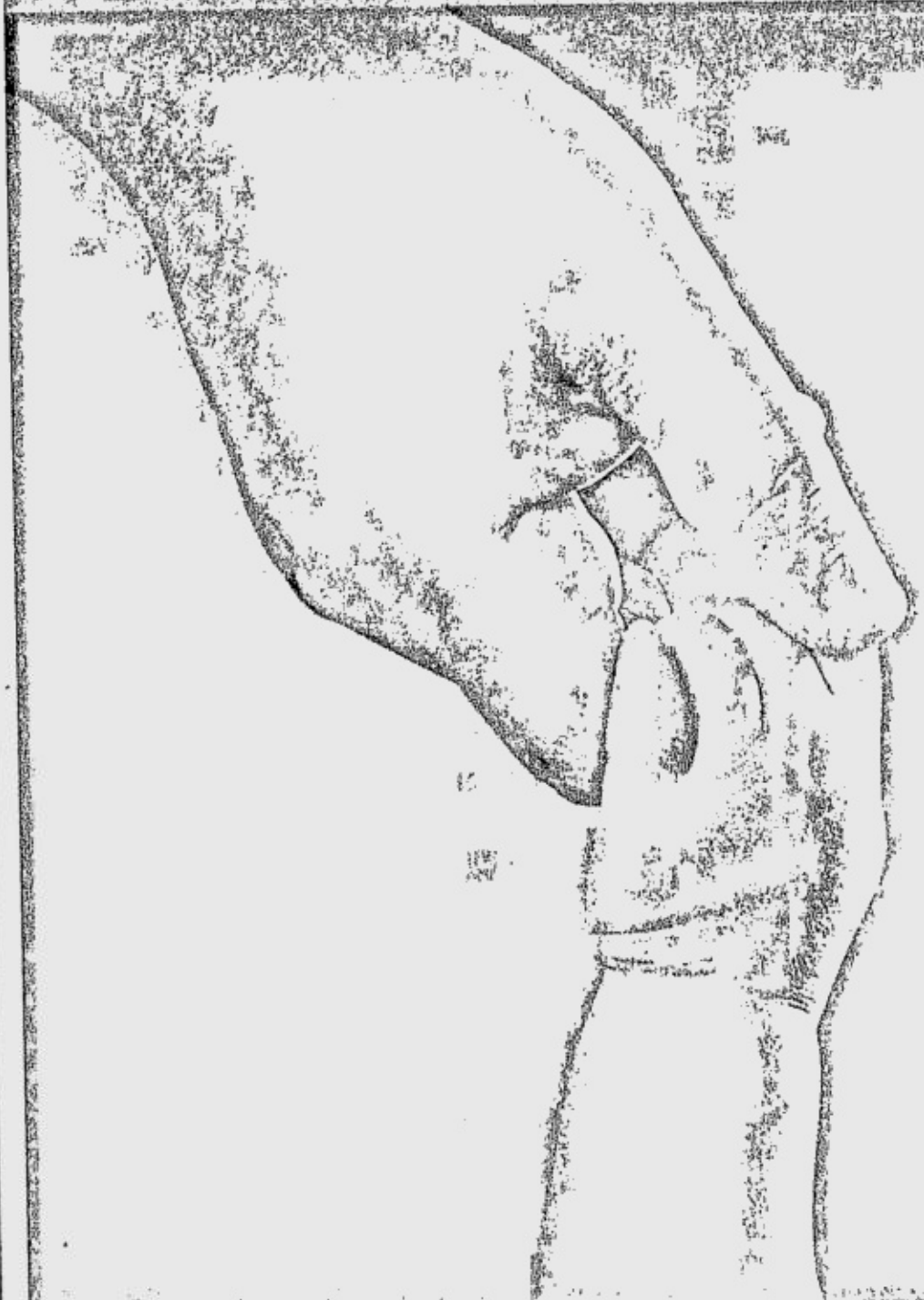
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# Arming villagers with business skills

By Desiree Caluza  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Arming commu-

nities with entrepreneurial skills is a project that Globe Telecom and the ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation want to push to help villagers

survive amid the poor economy.

Recently, Globe's Bridging Communities (Bridgecom) sa Bayan project, held in cooperation with the ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, reached out to barangay leaders in Benguet and La Union to train them on the basics of business development.

Through the project, barangay leaders were given leadership and entrepreneurial training to provide them with skills on strategic planning and financial management so they could identify potential businesses appropriate for their villages.

The training program is being implemented in more than 250 villages nationwide, a statement from Globe said.

It has been implemented in Bataan, Negros Occidental, Occidental Mindoro, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, Laguna, Iloilo, Batangas and Zambales.

The program encourages communities through local government leaders to get involved in livelihood projects and promote starting small businesses for family and community welfare.

In a recent forum here, Irma Cosico, head of client services of ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation, said the program also includes workshops on family relationship and micro-finance.

"Studies showed that in countries like India and Bangladesh, families were being abandoned as their businesses become bigger and successful," Cosico said.

She said the workshops also focus on strengthening family ties as a foundation to make the business stronger.

Forty participants from the villages of Ucab in Itogon, and of Taloy, Bumagao, Kennon Road and Poblacion in Tuba, both in Benguet, and 40 women entrepreneurs from Naguilian, La Union, participated in the two-day leadership and business development training held here last week.

Under the program, ABS-CBN Bayan Foundation will provide P2,000 for the micro-lending services of villages who have identified their businesses, while Globe will provide additional training on livelihood projects and merchandising materials.



BARANGAY leaders in Benguet and La Union learn the basics of business development.

One of the proposed barangay-based businesses was Globe's Globe Autoload Max, a retail outlet of mobile airtime credit.

In a paper, Gerry Ablaza, Globe chief executive officer, said 300 barangays in the country benefited from the program when the Bridgecom was launched in 2004.

"Bridgecom sa Bayan hopes to be a catalyst of positive change in the barangay by providing them with effective tools, skills and opportunities towards upgrading their economic status," Ablaza said in his paper on "Integrating CSR (corporate social responsibility) into core business strategy:

Ayala's business solutions for the underprivileged."

The paper cited Barangay Bolton in Malalag, Davao del Sur, as one of Bridgecom's success stories.

Three variety store owners in the village started a Globe Autoload Max outlet there.

"The tale of remote communities like Barangay Bolton shows how mobile commerce has become beneficial to the country. Millions of Filipinos learn each day the benefits of mobile commerce and how its application can help them efficiently run their micro businesses," said Ablaza.

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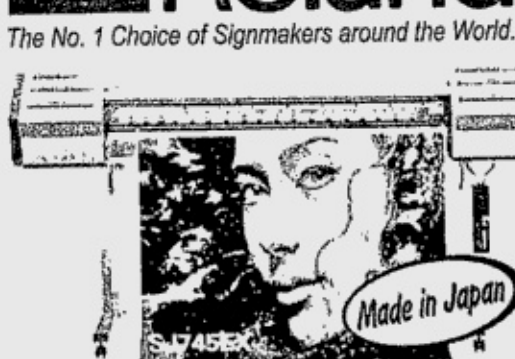
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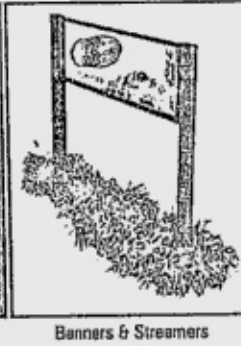
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## Italianni's opens biggest branch

ITALIANNI'S Restaurant is pursuing its expansion plans, with the inauguration of its 11th branch today at the ground floor of Building A, SM Megamall.

In February this year, it opened branches in Tomas Morato, Quezon City and at the Gateway Mall in Araneta Center.

Italianni's Megamall is the biggest among all the branches with a seating capacity of 400.

Aside from the trademark Italian-American dishes, turn-of-the-century interiors and the old world charm which Italianni's is known for, it boasts of new features such as the Gelato Corner, Pannetteria and Café Corner which will take guests on a journey to a "mini Italian village."

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# LIFE STYLE

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ROMEO'S gangster friends

## Love in the time of Jolina

Tanghalang Pilipino's audacious move to drag Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' to the Pinoy slums produces a winner

By Gibbs Cadiz

**S**ILLINESS is an assertion of youthfulness," wrote The New Yorker theater critic John Lahr, and nowhere is this truer than in Tanghalang Pilipino's newest production, "R'meo Luvs Dew-lhiett."

Cultural Center of the Philippines' resident theater company has got itself a bona fide hit with this show, an exhilaratingly funny *jologs* adaptation of the Shakespeare classic on young love that manages to be both inane and irresistible at the same time. The roars and cheers of the mostly young crowds that have packed CCP's Tanghalang Manuel Conde since the play opened last week couldn't be any more emphatic. This savvy send-up of everything low-class in Pinoy society is hitting the right chords, and how.

"Romeo and Juliet," of course, has gone to the tenements before, most famously in "West Side Story." But directors Herbie Go and JV Villareal's impudent inspiration in transposing this tale of the warring Montesco and Capuletto families to an urban slum area called Barangay Verona is to strip the play of its veneer of elitism.

Gone are the high-flown rhetoric, the precious verses, the struggle for an overfreighted romantic transcendence. Too many productions have zoomed in on the arched, delicate sugar of "Romeo and Juliet," but Go and Villareal's mutant work bravely goes for the grimy, the tacky, the vinegary. The result is a glorious master class on Pinoy street culture at its most pungent and picaresque.

### Earthy language

First off, don't expect to hear any of Shakespeare's soaring soliloquies here. The show uses National Artist Rolando Tinio's Filipino translation in some stretches, but for the most part the earthy, colorful, brittle exhalations of everyday *masa* living have taken over the Bard's words.

So a dainty, perticoated phrase like "What's in a name? That which we call a rose/By any other name would smell as sweet," uttered by Juliet in the famous balcony scene, now has assumed a scruffy pose: "Ang rose, kahit ano pang itawag sa rose/Alam mong hindi mag-aamoy gross."

Or how about Romeo's dazzling rhapsody upon seeing Juliet on the balcony?

"But, soft! what light through yonder window breaks?/It is the east, and Juliet is the sun!/Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon/Who is already sick and pale with grief/That thou her maid art far more fair than she."

"R'meo Luvs Dew-lhiett's" version of this gem is a killer.

"Woah! Ano yung naggi-glitter sa bintana nakadungaw?/Oh wow, si Juliet parang araw na nakakasilaw./Sige, tuloy mo lang ang pag-shine! Kahit pa ang moonshine, kaya mong i-outshine."

### Vibrant culture

If the rhythm of the verses sounds suspiciously like rap, well, it is. Go and his team of adapters thought hip-hop poetry expressed this vibrantly garish culture best, and they gleefully trawled the panoramic expanse of *jologs* phraseology to come up with a script that shoots and zaps punchlines to the audience like a cannon run amuck.

The obscenities fly fast and furious (Juliet's stock expression is "Sh\*t na malagkeet!");

LOVE/C2



LOVE'S tragic ending

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LOU Veloso plays Kapitan Escalo opposite Paolo Cabañero's Father Lorenzo.



# Cinemanila features Belgian cinema

THE 7TH CINEMANILA International Film Festival, the City of Manila, and the Royal Belgian Embassy in Manila, in celebration of the 175 years of Belgium, officially launched the Belgian Film Week at the Ambassador's Residence in Forbes Park South, Makati City on Aug. 6.

The Belgian Film Week, runs from Aug. 17-23 at SM Megamall, is presented by Cinemanila in cooperation with the Ambassador of Belgium to the Philippines, Christiaan Tanghe. It is part of the advanced screenings of this year's 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival on Oct. 12-25.

Cinemanila festival director Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI, Ambassador Tanghe and Robert Malengreau, editor of the Belgian Cinema magazine and general director of the Brussels International Independent Film Festival, welcomed award-winning directors Chito Roño and Lav Diaz; acclaimed actors Albert Martinez, Cesar Montano, Ronnie Lazaro and Yul Servo; producer Paul Tafiedo; independent filmmakers Ato Bautista, Sigfreid Sanchez and Erwin Romulo; animators Ramon del Prado and Titam Rebuena; Cinema One Originals project head Ronald Arguelles; and members of the diplomatic corps to the Belgian film focus inauguration.

"Today, Belgian cinema is one of the



"GILLES' Wife," by Frédéric Fonteyne and "Toto the Hero," by Jaco Van Dormael (right)

strongest in the world's movie industry. For more than 15 years, Belgian filmmaking has seen increasing recognition on the world stage," Malengreau said, citing the new victory of the brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne in the Cannes film festival 2005 with their second Golden Palm (Palme d'Or) for "L'Enfant" (The Child).

The films to be screened are: "Gilles' Wife" (Frédéric Fonteyne,



2004), Venice Film Festival Cicae Award winner and Cannes Directors' Fortnight entry; "My Life in Pink" (Alain Berliner, 1998), Oscars Best Foreign Language Film; "Toto the Hero" (Jaco Van Dormael, 1991), Cannes Golden Camera Award; "Li—Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" (Marion Hänsel, 1995), Cannes Golden Palm nominee and Special Mention Prize of the Ecumenical Jury; "The Sacrament" (Hugo Claus, 1990), Amiens International Film Festival Special Jury Award for Best Feature Film, and Locarno International Film Festival Youth Jury and Cicae Award winner; "Meisje (The Girl)" (Dorothee Van Den Bergh, 2002), National Society of Film Critics (US) Best Foreign Language Film; and "The Promise" (Dardenne brothers, 1996), Cairo International Film Festival Golden Pyramid Award.

Also to be screened are "Pauline and Paulette" (Lieve Debrauwer, 2001), "Steve + Sky" (Felix Van Groeningen, 2004), "Calvaire (The Ordeal)" (Fabrice du Welz, 2004), and "The Kiss" (Hilde Van Mieghem).

"In this focus, the Filipino people will have the occasion to discover a panorama of the already classics and the new directors of the Belgian cinema today," Malen-



"MY LIFE in Pink," by Alain Berliner

greau said.

Over the last 20 years, strong ties have been built between the Brussels International Independent Film Festival and Cinemanila International Film Festival.

Award-winning Philippine actors at the 31st Brussels film festival—Sharon Cuneta, Nora Aunor and Servo, and director Maryo de los Reyes—were honored during a ceremony at the Belgian ambassador's residence in Manila in January.

## Love in the time of Jolina

From page C1



WOWIE de Guzman (Benvolio), Chromewell Prince Cosio and Carlon Motabato (Tybalt/Koro)

gayspeak is everywhere (Benvolio—a delightfully cross-dressing Wowie de Guzman—convincing his cousin Romeo to gatecrash the Capuletto disco party: "Bayaan mo silang mag-taray/Basta rarampa tayo tapos eeskaflu sabay fly"); and everyone speaks in that odd patois where English and Filipino are forced to fornicate in new-fangled ways: "Men, what a night! Parang panaginip sa sobrang all right!"

Sometimes you do miss Shakespeare, and the sublime graciousness of his words. Juliet's poignant lament after learning of Romeo's provenance—"My only love sprung from my only hate"—is now a thin, inelegant "Ang true love ko at mortal enemy, iisa lang."

And, occasionally, the punning and allusions don't make much sense to young audiences. Of his lady love, Romeo says, "Ay peks man, kamukha mo si Paraluman!" That line falls with a thud. Apparently, in the age of Claudine and Jolina (from whose name the word

jologs supposedly came), few, if any, have heard of that legendary beauty.

### Pointless

But in the face of the show's effervescent embrace of everything bakya and baduy, such quibbling is, of course, pointless. There is nothing to do but swoon hysterically as the lovers exchange such monuments to kitsch as "Ba-bye, ba-bye! Mapuno sana ang iyong good night's rest/Ng excess sweetness na umaapaw sa aking breast." Done, if anyone fails to get it, right after the lovers sing their theme song—Lara Fabian and Josh Groban's "Broken Vow."

Ah, yes, the music. "R'meo Luvs Dew-lhiett" throbs with the soundtrack of the gutters, from the Aegis "Halik" and Luha" to Sampaguita's "Nosi Ba Lasi" and every honky-tonk's No. 1 song, "My Way." Now sporting new lyrics that comment on the plot, these songs are belted out by cast members videoke-style, complete with a thundering score in the end.

### Class distinctions

Any exercise in camp or farce, especially one that simultaneously celebrates and skewers class distinctions, could just as easily lapse into condescension. In less-than-sincere hands, the sheer stinky gaudiness of the back-alley culture that "R'meo Luvs Dew-lhiett" purports to portray—the cheap gangsta shorts! the violence! the vulgarity!—would be an invitation to mockery.

Fortunately, the show has a talented ensemble of actors whose faith in the material shines through with every unprintable word or sugar-coated line. There is something to be said for mouthing dialogue that springs from everyday life—the inflections



DESS Verzosa (Mrs. Montesco), Marjorie Lorico (Yaya) and Angeli Bayani (Mrs. Capuletto)

have the rank immediacy of fire burning your hair. You wince at the vulgar dialogue of Tybalt and Romeo, but realize you've heard it somewhere before in real life.

"R'meo Luvs Dew-lhiett" has a real find in Noel Escondo, who plays the title role with a knockout combination of appeal and fierce energy. Catherine Racasag as Dew-lhiett is a bit more earthbound, but her sweet yet foul-mouthed Juliet is no less engrossing.

Together, these two diminutive actors form a pair of mini-tornadoes onstage, successfully sustaining the play's tightrope spirit of mischief and earnestness right up to the end.

If they weren't tenacious actors themselves, Escondo and Racasag would have been buried by two effortless scene-stealers, Wenah Nagales as Juliet's yaya and Cris Pasturan as the nifty rapper Mercutio.

Pasturan, in particular, is sorely missed when he is dispatched mid-

way through by Tybalt. (He exits with the memorable line, "Bagsak ko nito, pulutan ng mga uod.")

Just when you thought "R'meo Luvs Dew-lhiett" couldn't get any more playful or audacious, the double suicide moment near the end coughs up two deranged twists that practically reinvent the story and leave you gasping for air.

In this mad, no-holds-barred adaptation, "the vulgarity, the noise, the glorious gossamer folderol are all a bold and fierce declaration of life," to use John Lahr again. But put more simply, it's a "Romeo and Juliet" you've never seen before, and likely won't forget.

"R'meo Luvs Dew-lhiett" runs until Sept. 18 at the CCP Call 8323661, 8321125 locals 1620/1621, 8919999 or 8323704.

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## Spain's top flamenco dancer coming to Manila

SARA BARAS is not just Spain's hottest flamenco dancer; she is contemporary flamenco's most famous star. Already considered an icon at the age of 34, she has been voted as the "Face of Andalusia" and even has her own postage stamp.

She has also made a name for herself in theater before making an astonishing jump to television and cinema and the catwalks in London, Madrid and Lisbon. She has been featured in the catalogue of Cartier Jewels.

Instituto Cervantes is bringing this beautiful and multi-talented Spanish idol to Manila on Oct. 11 as part of Fiesta 2005, the Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts.

"Baras is set to perform at Cultural Center of the Philippines in 'Sueños (Dreams),' her acclaimed traditional flamenco show that made box-office history with a record-breaking five straight months of sold-out performances in Madrid.

Twice honored with Spain's most prestigious dance award, the Premio Nacional de Danza, Baras has been hailed worldwide for her intensity, brilliant choreography and elegant spirit. She's known for her ability to work her audiences into a frenzy with her powerful, passionate dances and unbelievably fast footwork.

Baras, who learned how to dance from her mother, Concha Baras, started to excel when she joined the company of guitarist Manuel Morao in 1989. She won important awards: the Madono Flamenco of Montellano (Seville); Gente Joven on TVE (Spain's public television broadcasting company); and Max prize for the Best Female Dance Performer (in 1999 and 2001).

In artistic partnerships with dance greats Javier Baron, Merche Esmeralda, Antonio

Canales, El Guito and Manuel Morao, she went on to triumph in Madrid, Paris and New York; at the Seville Expo in 1992 and the Seville Biennial Fair in 1994; and in an extensive tour of Asia.

In 2001 she entered the world of theater, and was much acclaimed for her performance in "Juana la Loca" (2001) and "Mariana Pineda" (2002). She was featured in "Mission Impossible 2," starring Tom Cruise, in a scene shot at the Casa Pilatos in Seville.

Flamenco, the traditional dance style of Andalusian Gypsies, is currently experiencing a dramatic surge in popularity, fueled in no small part by the personal charisma of Baras, who has almost single-handedly won a new audience to the genre.

Said Washington Post of one of her performances: "Sara Baras dances as if her life depended on it... this is flamenco for a new generation."

Compared with classical ballet, with its emphasis on air and ethereality, flamenco is reality-based, down and dirty. Baras wipes the sweat off her brow and down the front of her dress—she never leaves the ground.

The relationship between musician and dancer is all part of the form. On stage, the musicians surround the dancers and gang up on them with sounds, wailing voices and drumming guitars with the rhythms always pushing the dancers toward the edge.

Every dance feels tense, provocative, even when it's all a matter of stomping feet and clapping hands, of shoes and dresses and shawls being worked wildly.



SARA Baras performs "Sueños."



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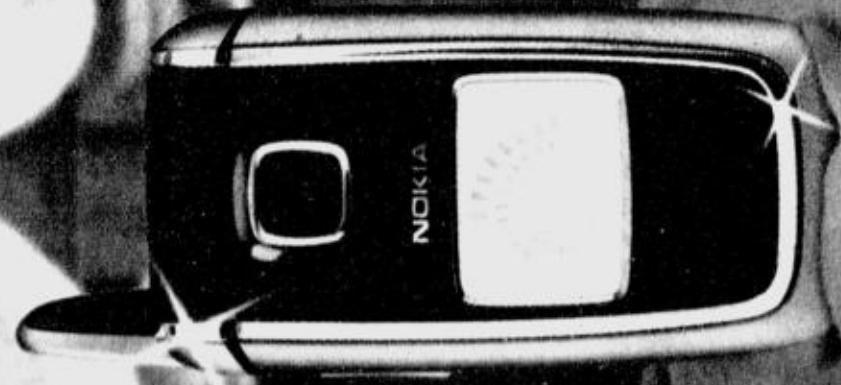
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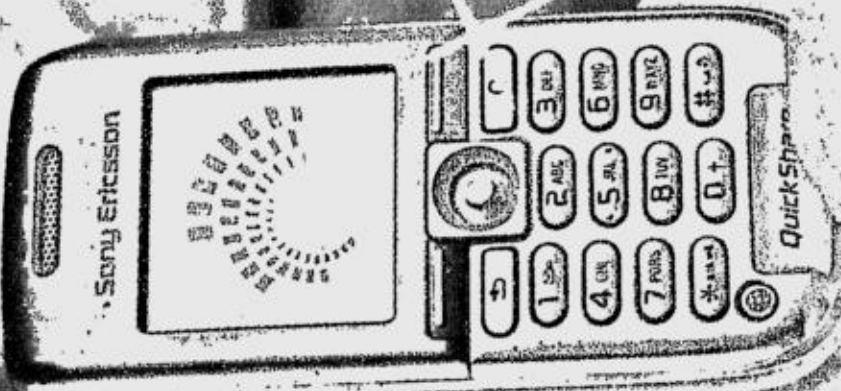


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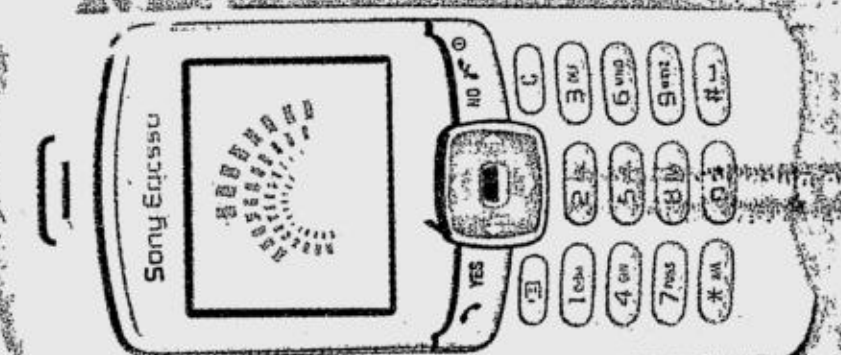
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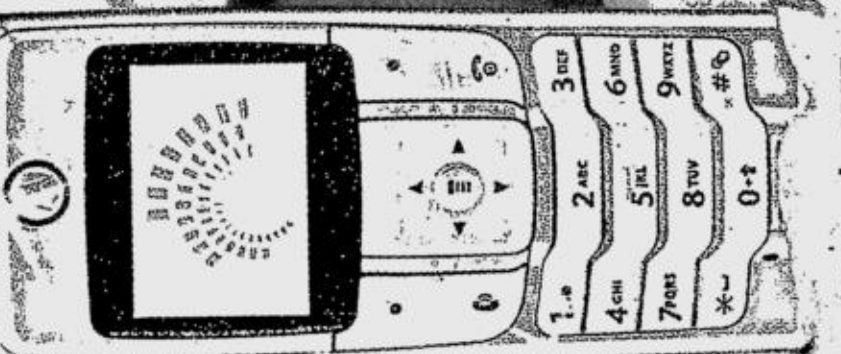
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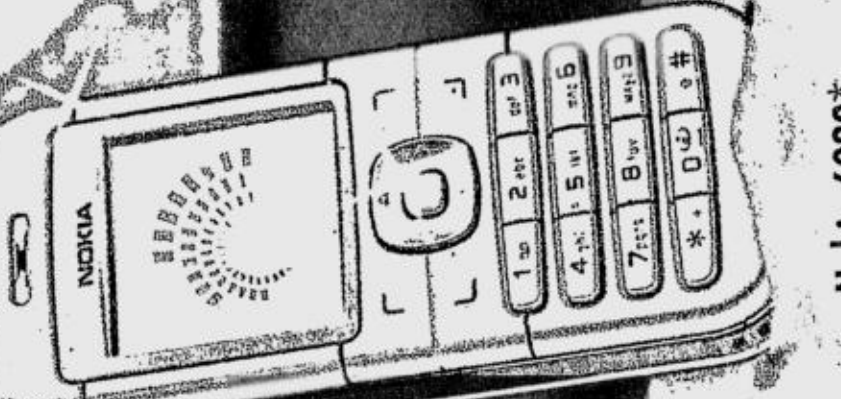
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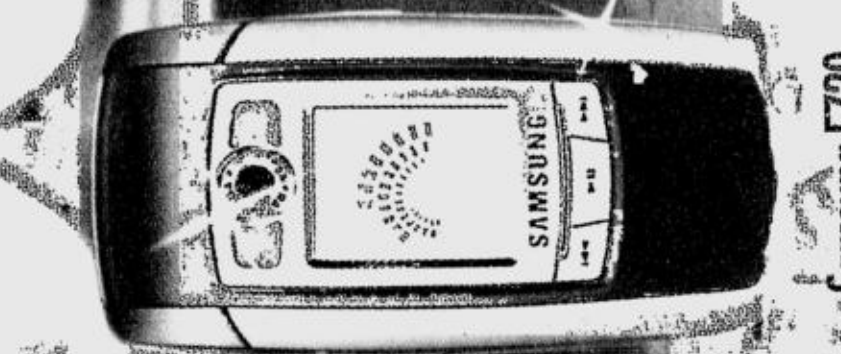
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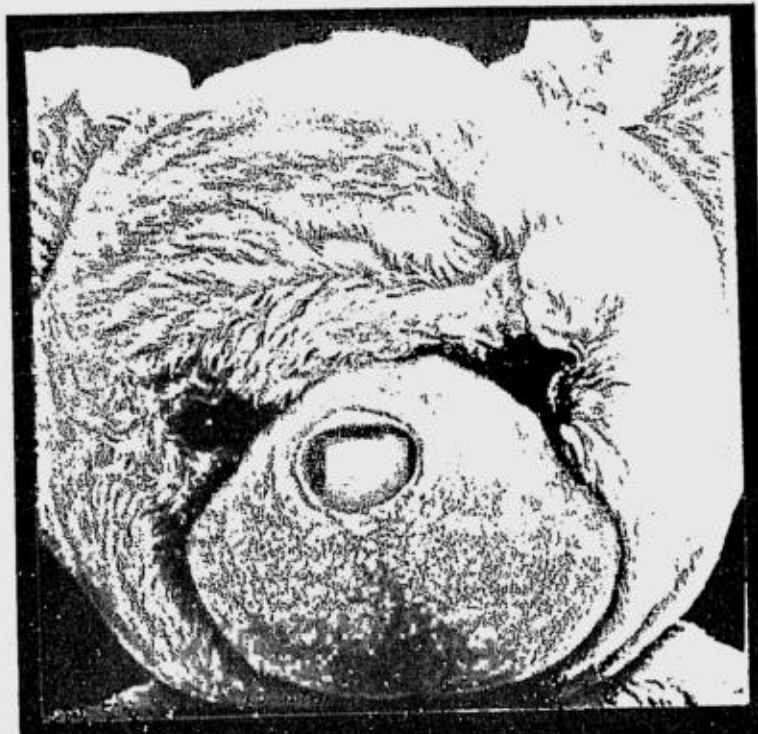
## The art of the Cute

By Constantino C. Tejero

CUTE imagery has become hip in certain quarters of the art world. Called *kawaii* by the Japanese, with images inspired by or based on anime characters, it was popularized by artists like Takashi Murakami.

But soon, with the invasion of Smiley and Hello Kitty faces and Louis Vuitton logos in the art world, commercialization is bound to happen. This is, of course, just an offshoot of the 1960s Pop Art championed by Warhol.

To counter the effect, some artists are putting a twist to the pop-iconic images. They deconstruct, reconstruct, reinterpret them so



"PROFILE," by EJ Cabangon

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"THE COURTSHIP," by Bayani Ray Acala

## Show displays unique legacy of Onib Olmedo

By Gino Dormiando  
Contributor

THE ARTIST died nine years ago, but judging from the outpouring of affection and respect from fellow artists, his memory lives on. Indeed, Onib Olmedo, born Luis Velozco Olmedo in 1937, has cast his influence on a new generation of artists.

The exhibit, "Of Honoring, Remembering, and Giving Tribute: the Legacy of Onib Olmedo," is curated by Riel Hilario, who invited some 15 artists to participate in the show (Galerie Joaquin, extended until Aug. 20).

The works ostensibly bear Olmedo's lasting influence, both in subject and mode of treatment. Olmedo, of course, was known for his figurative expressionism, a movement which had hordes of followers and detractors alike in its halcyon years.

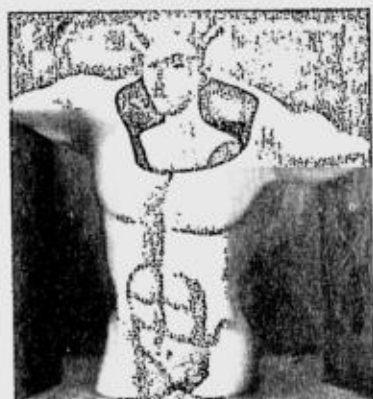
The show's piece de résistance, however, are the 14 rediscovered pieces lent for the exhibit by Olmedo's private collectors. These consist mainly of portraits, nudes, still lifes and the so-called *vanitas*, works that he finished during his last year on earth. These pieces are not to be regarded as ordinary portraits done in the usual mode but, rather, soul portraits, of "humans warped and distorted by anguish and suffering," as Alice Guillermo aptly describes them. "They are victims of social injustice as well as of their own tortured psyches."

Olmedo was one man who showed empathy for society's underdog. Witness his gallery of the poor and the dispossessed. He painted even the *sakada* workers from Negros and waitresses in the cheap girlie joints.

It is interesting to note that, after an extended period of anguish and suffering (aggravated by poor sales), he shifted toward the brighter side of life, painting lively still lifes. These pieces, however, came toward the end of his life, when, suffering from diabetes and other complications, he expressed the wish to be at peace with himself and the world.

Paying him tribute in the show are Manny Garibay and Yasmin Almonte, Mark Justiniani and Lydia Velasco, Marcel Antonio and Sandra Gfeller.

Even the younger ones, who emerged in the scene only after Olmedo's death in 1996, such as Vincent de Pio, Gino Tioseco, Carlo Angelo Saavedra and Elmer Roslin,



"HARI," by Manny Garibay



"MAN with Violin," by Olmedo

bear his trademark figure and color; indeed, the soul-wrenching delineation of figures that seem engaged in a gripping drama in an inner universe.

Of these artists, it is Garibay who has become Olmedo's most worthy disciple, though Elmer Borlongan, who is regrettably not represented here, comes quite close, particularly in his rendering of distorted figures.

The younger Antonio has faithfully subscribed to Olmedo's palette sense, and the stark if foreboding images of angst and anxiety.

I dare say, however, that it is José Ibay, a portraitist of the most disturbing faces and body language I have witnessed, who has assimilated Olmedo's storehouse of visual connotations.

The curator's notes by Hilario say that Olmedo is a "unique individual" and "influential artist." But the curator does not really render Olmedo up close and personal, having been born a generation later than the master. Perhaps the introduction could have carried greater weight if it has reported the testimony of all who have been touched and enriched by Olmedo's art.

E-mail the author at [gdormiando@yahoo.com](mailto:gdormiando@yahoo.com).

## Barrioquinto at West, Melencio and Sugay at Mag:Net

WEST Gallery presents Andres Barrioquinto's "Your Face Is as Mean as Your Life Has Been" on Aug. 18-30 in SM Megamall. On view will be the artist's latest portraits of people he once knew, including his "old self." The portraits are not realistic depictions, but mutated versions of human nature, which the artist says are representations of his increasing awareness of his surroundings and people around him. A multi-awarded young artist, Barrioquinto studied painting at University of Santo Tomas and recently had a sold-out show in Singapore. Call 6341284.

### VISUAL ARTS

MAG:NET ABS show-cases "Double Bluff" by Jet Melencio and Kreskin Sugay on Aug. 16-Sept. 9 at The Loop, ELJ Comm Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. St., South Triangle, QC. Melencio's paintings are effused with colors while pyramidal forms and patterns are attached with flat-painted cutouts. Sugay uses swaths of gauze and lacquered cotton balls as ground for his works. Call 4100995.

MAG: NET Gallery Paseo mounts Lui Medina's "Canned Thoughts" on Aug. 19-Sept. 4 at G/F Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas and Sedeño St., Makati. Medina forays into Freudian symbolism in her latest show. Call 8177895.

A PHOTO exhibition of scenic destinations of the Philippines and China by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, Inc. is open to the public until Aug. 29 at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit is part of the 30th anniversary of RP-China diplomatic relations.

FINALE Makati mounts Juan Alcazaren's "Coming Misconceptions" on Aug. 16-31 at the 4/F Lao Centre, Pasay Road cor Makati Avenue. The artist loves to incorporate things like discarded toys, kitchen and industrial parts into his paintings, thus giving new purpose to old objects. Call 8151813/ 8104071.

"X and Y" by Archie Perez and Gil Bien focuses on the endless possibilities of the visual perception and its effect on human consciousness. The exhibit runs on Aug. 19-31 in Galerie Astra, 2/F



"WINDOW at 3231," by Gil Bien

LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Makati. Call 8903988/ 7243032/ 7269015.

AYALA Museum presents the second set of the exhibition "Passionate Eyes: Federico Aguilar Alcuaz" until Sept. 4 at the ground floor gallery. Call 7577117.

FINALE Art Gallery presents Pok-long Anadig's "Anonymity" on Aug. 18-30 at SM Megamall A. The constant element in the photographs is a round mirror held up to the faces of Anadig's subjects, people he encounters in the streets of the city. When light hits the mirror, it obliterates the face of the person. Hence, the subject becomes anonymous. Call 6342410/ 6342411.

ANTIPAS Delotava launches 16 new works in "Gayak" on Aug. 20-Sept. 12 in the Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. The works focus on social realism. Call 8976990/ 8977877.



"COWBOY from Hell and Kiss of Death," by Andres Barrioquinto

FINALE Art File presents Jayson Oliveria's "Cy-clops" on Aug. 24-Sept. 6 in SM Megamall Art Center. The images are taken from news clippings, weather forecasts, gift catalogs, dictionaries, science journals and the artist's past works. Call 6342410/ 6342411.

AYALA Museum features an exhibition of rare 18th-19th century costumes and accessories utilizing *nipis*, a gossamer handwoven fabric made from the fibers of *abaca*, *piña* and *just*. These costumes are on long-term loan to Ayala Museum from the private collection of Rina Ortiz. Ayala Museum is at Makati Ave. cor Dela Rosa St., Makati. Call 7577117 to 21.

THE ALCOVE Photo Gallery will hold the forum "Shooting for Glossies: On Magazine Photography and How to Get Published" on Aug. 20, 2-5 p.m. Aja Ongpin of ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. and photographer Jojo Gulgona will be on the panel of speakers. Call 8921801.

JAPANESE stoneware artist Toshih Maruyama will hold a one-day lecture-demo and workshop on pottery on Aug. 21, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Art Informal, 277 Connecticut St., East Greenhills, Mandaluyong. Call 7258518/ 0920-2132972/ 0918-8261253.

## Manila artists hold group show in San Francisco, New York City

MANILA artists Ambassador Rafael A. Gonzales, Julius Limpe, Al Perez and George Ng will hold group shows in San Francisco and New York City from Aug. 19-24, and from Aug. 29-Sept. 9, respectively.

Gonzales, since retiring from the foreign service in 1992 to become a full-fledged painter of note, is known for his semi-abstract paintings depicting themes in simple and well-disciplined lines using a vivid array of colors. He has exhibited his paintings at the Philippine Art Center in New York, his ceramics in Brooklyn Museum, art-works in Berlin, and, most recently, in Makati at the Ayala Museum.

Limpe, an Indiana University graduate and past president and chair of Limtuaco Group of companies, has devoted the last 15 years on the arts to become known for his expressionist rendition of fishes, flowers and animals in different media, mainly acrylic and oil pastel.

Perez, trained in the Universi-



"PAOAY Church, Ilocos," by Perez



AL Perez, George Ng, Ralf Gonzales and Julius Limpe

ty of Santo Tomas School of Fine arts and School of Visual Art in New York, is a multi-awarded and well-traveled artist. His works, known for the artist's meticulous and realistic rendition of old churches, have been exhibited in Europe, Asia and US cities.

Ng, well-known in local circles as an art professor at one of the Catholic universities, is a Chinese-born Filipino with a remarkable sense of native appreciation of his country so apparent in his oil paintings.

The group's San Francisco exhibit at the Philippine Center Building at 447 Sutter St. is sponsored by the Philippine Trade and Investment Center, Department of Tourism and Filipino-American Arts Exposition.

The group show will be brought to New York City on Aug. 29 at the Philippine Center at 5th Ave. by World Master Real Estate Development Corporation, Distilleria Limtuaco, Inc., and patrons in the East Coast.

## The art of the cute

From page D1

that now they look disturbing. And so the art of Murakami is subverted by fellow Japanese such as Nara Yoshitomo and Ayako Tabata.

A leading postmodernist Filipino artist working in this vein is RM de Leon. He collects sheaves of mass-produced images, reproduces them then retouches each with his personal touch of black humor.

His latest irreverence was recently displayed in "Anomalous," five pieces in acrylic on paper, in Galleria Duemila at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Here he has appropriated familiar illustrations from storybooks, rendering the blown-up pieces in pastel washes and bold hues, violently juxtaposed them and added some morbid touches. The effect is jarring, as if comfort food had turned into bitter medicine.

### Blackest humor

The artist chooses to highlight the more upsetting parts of the stories, and the images he has reproduced he accompanies with appropriately unsettling titles taken from the texts: "What's the Matter, Asked Mollie, Scared"; "He Wandered Down the Street Alone, Very Puzzled and Unhappy"; "Everyone Was Amused to See That the Bottom Part of Poor Connie's Dress Was

Gone"; "Goodbye and Thank You, Said the Polite Goblin to the Pregnant Wendy."

As if the fairy tales were not terrifying enough, De Leon pushes the child in each gallery-goer into a world of leering pedophiles, falling warheads, a girl hammering a squirrel, a bull sniffing a boy's crotch. (Anomalous, indeed.)

The artist says he sees in these book illustrations something "twisted, strange and bizarre," bringing out the "humor and blackness" in him.

"Instead of fear, doubt and uneasiness led to some of my mature feelings," he says. "They were a product of my exposure to witches, giants and monsters."

To visualize the change of attitude and transformation of feeling, he renders each piece with two sets of imagines: the original from his childhood ghosted and in monochrome, layered with the knowing one from his adulthood in color.

The artist is just giving the cute a dose of its own medicine. In the process, he has transformed kitsch into witty art.

### Visual deception

Just as unsettling in its transformation of the innocuous into the sinister is the art of Eliezer John Cabangon. In his recent works, he has just robbed the children of their toys.

Witness his bravura performance of vi-



"EVERYONE Was Amused to See That the Bottom Part of Poor Connie's Dress Was Gone," by RM de Leon

sual deception in "Tickles Tricked," six pieces in oil on canvas, until Aug. 23 in The Big & Small Art Co. also at the Artwalk.

The exhibit's title must be referring to that shop of trinkets in the mall, as the glowing objects shown are the kind that can be found in that place patronized by teenagers. The rendition of each object, we must say, is a triumph of superrealism.

Photorealist paintings have a perverse appeal. They subvert one's sense of reality. The images appear quite real (as reproduction of reality) and the viewer is elated on finding they're not (just an exact copy). The source of elation is the surprise after the initial gullibility combined with the admiration for the artist's skill.

This art of extremely fine detail empha-



"JAMMING," by Cabangon

sizing the illusion of tactile and spatial qualities used to be called *trompe l'oeil*, but that sounds old-fashioned now for the kind of superrealist images being produced nowadays.

We've seen hyperrealism being subverted in Nona Garcia's knickknacks, or deliberately made to disturb in Ronald Ventura's cadaverous nudes, or used as celebratory technique in Stevesantos' landscapes and still lifes.

Cabangon's is something else. He has created a child's world of sharp surface details and striking colors (chiefly primary, dashes of secondary, and one gray monochrome), yet a shadowy quality suffuses every image.

### Sinister images

They look sinister precisely because of

the gloss and lighting in the composition, a kind of kitschy chiaroscuro, along with a cropping of image that induces claustrophobia. Here are glitzy images of toys, but it's as if we're seeing Chuckie sharpening his knife.

"Bunch" 1-2 are close-cropped images of glass marbles. The swirling patterns of color point to abstraction, but the white highlights emphasize the objects' solidity and glassiness. The cropping adds an illusion of volume to the objects and induces a feeling of suffocation and vertigo on the viewer.

"The Star" and "Jamming" show a stuffed-toy gorilla and clown moppets bundled in a corner to simulate a jam session or circus act. The chiaroscuro casts them in such light that their visages look menacing.

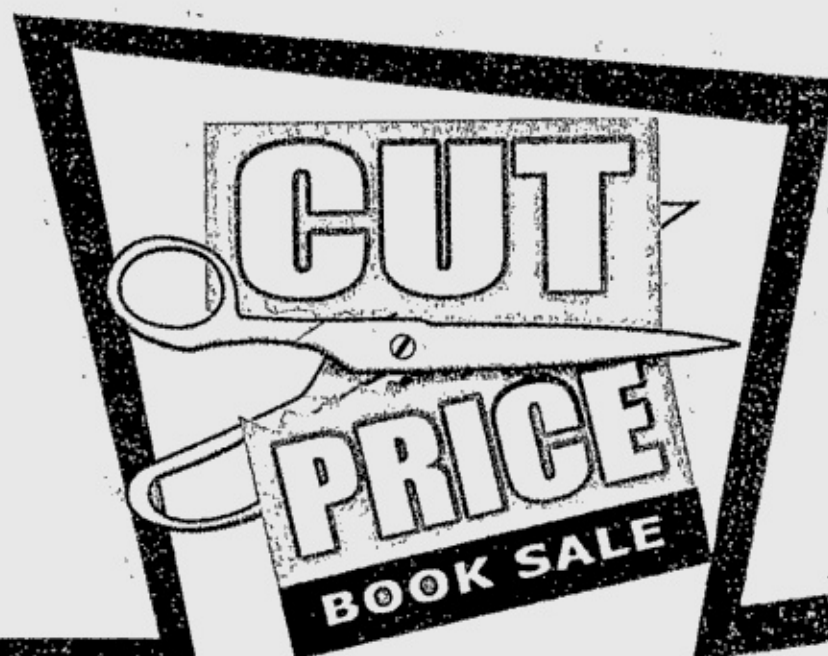
"The Bird" is foregrounded with an inverted drawing of a yellow bird with red bill while in the background a glass ball reflects its distorted image. The drawing is cartoonish, but with its eyes askew and its beak looking like a pair of scissors, one would swear it's a bird of prey.

"Profile," the only achromatic piece in the exhibit, is the most menacing of the lot. It's just the face of a teddy bear in extreme close-up of gray monochrome, but precisely because of the tightness of the image it appears monstrous.

Cabangon took up Painting at Philippine Women's University. He has been a finalist in the Shell and Metrobank national art competitions.



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## Architects, designers, chefs collaborate in Metro showcase

TOP INTERIOR designers, architects and chefs are collaborating on a first-of-its-kind lounge party to mark the first anniversary of Metro Home & Entertaining, the interior design magazine of ABS-CBN Publishing.

The collaboration will be held Aug. 18, 9 p.m., at MC Home Depot at The

Fort.

The designers and architects are Joey Yupangco, Dan Lichauco, Ito Kish, Chito Vijandre, Ricky Toledo, and Anton G. Mendoza.

Budji Layug and Movement 8's Tes Pansola, Tony Gonzales, Milo Naval, Ann Pamintuan, Renato Vidal, Kenneth

Cobonpue, Al Caronan, Luisa Robinson and Maricris Brias will design the bar and will have their own space themselves.

The chefs are Ed Quimson, Bambi Sy-Gobio, Philip Golding, Carlo Miguel, Anton Miguel and Anthony Yupangco.

The event is invitational. The public exhibit is on Aug. 19-21.

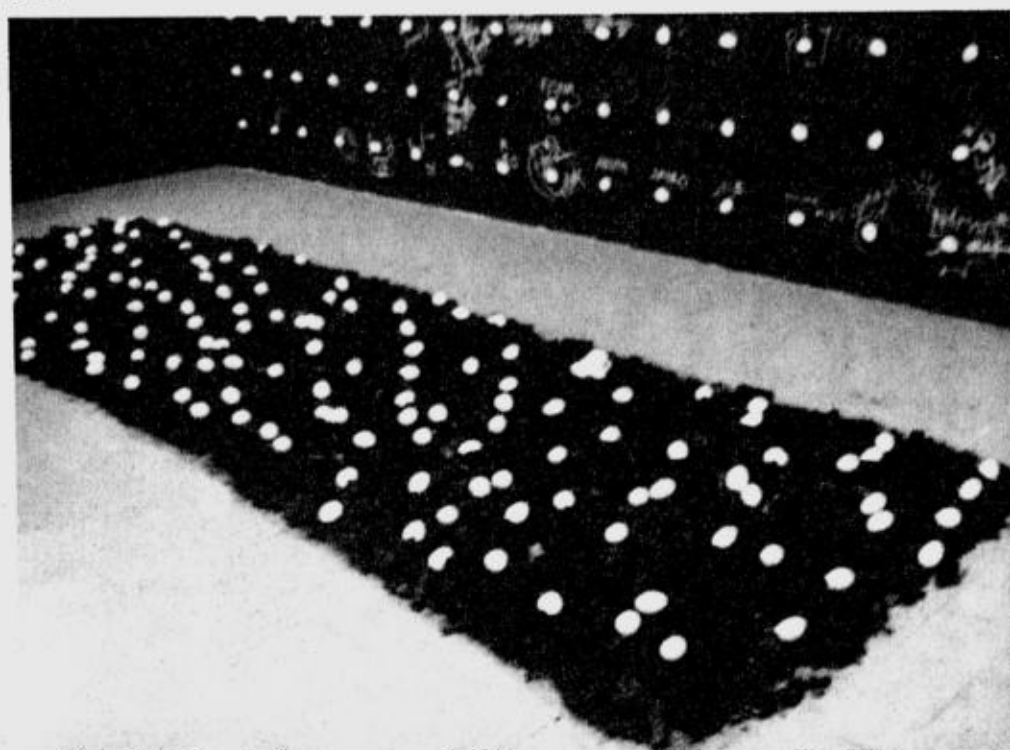
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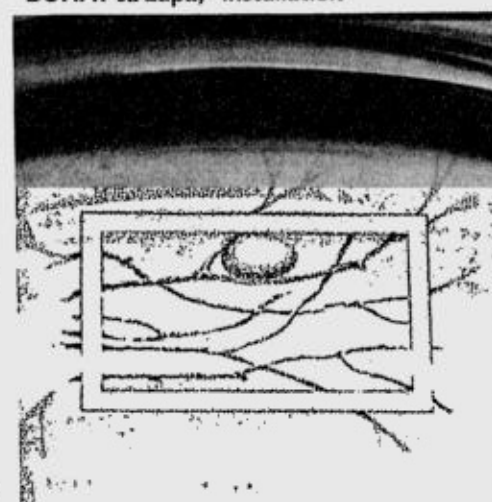
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"BUHAY sa Lupa," installation



"EGGCOLOGY," small series 1



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## The world according to Salvador Ching

By Gary Devilles  
Contributor

So how does one communicate the most important thing to say at this turbulent time?

Like the ancients when they first discovered the power of myths, mixed-media artist Salvador Ching provides a way to the conundrum in his exhibit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, "Eggology," a conflation of the Philippines, "Eggology," a conflation of the egg and ecology, connoting the complex interaction inside and outside.

Hence, the works can be regarded as estimable reckonings of the internal and personal conflicts within the larger, imaginary and collective life. This is exactly what the ancients discovered with their myths—the power to transcend the personal on to the political.

Unique is Ching's appropriation of egg motifs both in installation and painting. In the paintings, the egg with roots and kindling spreading all over naturally occupies the center, framed with the horizon in the background. The egg assumes the generative order and locus just as the Tahitian and Dogon tribes trace and view the creation of the universe with the cosmic egg.

As a generative order, the egg is the starting point of all life in the cosmos. To see one's self as part of this cosmos is to see how the egg embraces us all mystically—we are part of one and the same life-giving force, whether with the lowest form of life as an amoeba or with the more monstrous form like the long-extinct dinosaurs. The egg definitely is a signification of this bind.

For Ching, it is not us who are in the center of this grand scheme of creation; rather, it is the egg that connects all life, both human and non-human. Our severed ties are not just biological in nature but also historical and cultural.

Just as the egg grows roots and kindling in Ching's paintings, so must human life. But modern man seems over and done with the past, and to blindly trust science and technology.

Similarly, Filipinos today suffer from cultural amnesia, forgetting their connection to the past, degrading literature and the humanities.

In Ching's eggology, science and technology must reconnect us to the basic and primitive wisdom, to our heritage. We have always moaned the death of culture and blame science and technology for it, but probably, in Ching's paintings, culture and technology are not necessarily inimical or antithetical. Consequently, such connections enable us to understand the bigger picture.

### Political

Ching's paintings may not necessarily be political, yet they teem with political visions.

Ching connects us to the Filipino psyche by displaying or installing eggs in some of our most common cultural images such as the Nativity scene. The images show our spiritual longing for familial belonging.

But just as eggs signify birth and beginning, the Filipinos must see their kinships as part of a bigger and more organic affiliation.

The Filipino must embrace the larger community. His myopia is in failing to consider the rest and the larger community in his dealings, whether private or public.

We need to see the political turmoil in our country today as structural and connected to various aspects of our lives. Politics is never about personalities and political problems cannot just be assuaged by a simple act of apology.

For Ching, our interconnectedness grows deeper, rooted probably to basic agricultural or land problems, as

rendered in his "Buhay sa Lupa" (Life in the Soil). Perhaps we need to see also why our severed ties that lead to social inequalities are actually rooted in land distribution.

After all, our lives are dependent on the land and its bounty. If such human endeavors are already problematic to begin with, how can we ever hope for interconnection and oneness?

Ching's art tells us there is more at stake in this dream of being connected. The world according to Ching is a world fraught with contradictions, a world of Freudian unconscious waiting to be tapped, and a poetic world that Blake describes: "That the earth from sleep... Shall arise and seek/ For her maker meek:// And the desert wild/ Become a garden mild."



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## A Pope of surprises

By Lito B. Zulueta

**W**HEN Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger emerged as pope after the fourth balloting in the conclave of April 19, his election was met by both relief and dismay. Relief because the conclave chose an old hand to steer the Church after the groundbreaking papacy of John Paul II, already called The Great by worldwide acclamation even before he was buried. And dismay because Ratzinger had earned enemies as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the doctrinal enforcer of the Church that had formerly been known as the Holy Office of the Inquisition, which burned alleged witches and excommunicated heretics. The latter reaction was best represented by Leonardo Boff, the former Franciscan who left the priesthood after he was sanctioned by Rome for his Marxism-laced brand of liberation theology. "The winter of the Church will continue," he said of the election.

As John Allen shows in "The Rise of Benedict XVI" (Doubleday, 2005, 249 pages), Ratzinger was a shoo-in for the pope even before he entered the conclave. While the book is dramatic reading for its account of the last days of John Paul II (his losing battle against his infirmities, his heroic effort to reflect in himself the suffering Christ in a world where suffering is anathema, and his aides keeping up a brave front until his spokesman, Joaquin Navarro Valls, broke down in tears after announcing the Pope was beyond medical hope), it is also fascinating for detailing Ratzinger's ascendancy among the papabile even without him wanting to. According to Allen, Ratzinger's loving homily during the Pope's funeral Mass and his powerful speech decrying "the dictatorship of relativism" when the conclave opened sealed his fate as papal successor.

It helped that Ratzinger had vocal supporters among the cardinals, such as Christoph Schonborn, the Dominican archbishop of Vienna who was his former student at Regensburg and who was general editor of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. But as Allen shows, there was an attempt by the liberal wing to put up an opponent to the Ratzinger juggernaut in the person of Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the retired Jesuit archbishop of Milan. But the opposition never gathered steam since Martini was suffering from Parkinson's disease. The fact that the conclave wrapped up its work swiftly should indicate that it was a no-contest from the start.

Two other books—Marco Bardazzi's "In the Vineyard of the Lord: The Life, Faith and Teachings of Joseph Ratzinger, Benedict XVI" (Rizzoli International Publications) and Stephen Mansfield's "Pope Benedict XVI: His Life and Mission" (Jerry P. Tarcher/ Penguin)—complement Allen's book in showing Ratzinger's formidable papal qualifications. They show that even before he came to Rome, Ratzinger had a dazzling reputation as a theologian and thinker. He was even a best-selling author whose writings and speeches were noted for their felicity of style, provocativeness of thought and lucidity of expression.

### From liberal to conservative

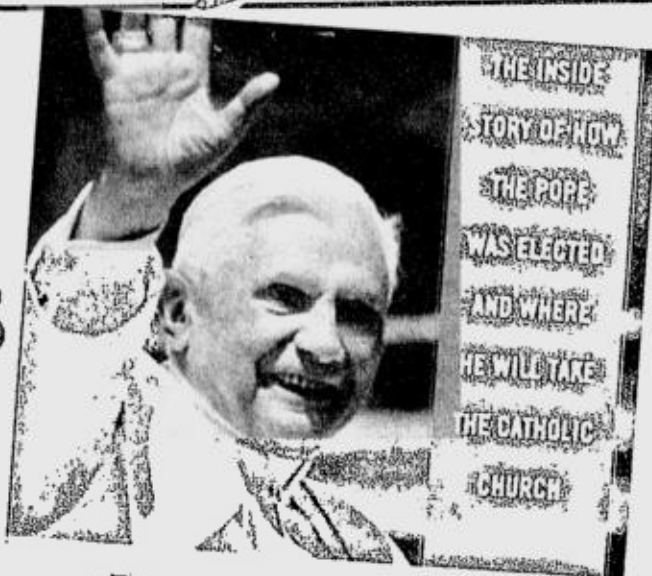
A *peritus* in the Second Vatican Council, Ratzinger was behind a number of reformist interventions that earned him a reputation as a liberal theologian together with Hans Kung and Edward Schillebeeckx, who were also theological advisers in the council. But the three soon parted ways, especially after the student riots of 1968, which shocked Ratzinger and compelled him to sound the alarm against the excesses of the Council and the secular illusion for a "utopia... the only dogma that inspired thought and action." Against what he considered as a blind drive to praxis for the sake of praxis, he insisted on the old Catholic verities: "We need to show that Catholicism bears the heredity of the past and the future, even if it does so against the times."

But even if Ratzinger comes to the papacy as a predictable force, he may yet surprise us. Although at 78 he is an old Pope, one who is looked upon merely as a transition to the long papacy of his predecessor, he won't take it easy. "Benedict XVI, whatever else history may eventually say of him, will not preside over a pontificate of small plans," Allen writes.

### Surprise papal name

To be sure, Ratzinger surprised everyone with his choice of papal name. The name shows he wants to be an apostle for peace in a divided world, as well as a guardian of orthodoxy who would draw initiatives from the wellspring of traditional Catholicism even if those initiatives may be considered not modern enough, or even dangerously divisive.

"My guess is that he chose Benedict XVI as his name in reference to Benedict XV, who was the pope during the First World War,"



## THE RISE OF BENEDICT XVI

JOHN L. ALLEN, JR. Author of CONCLAVE

Papal books say 'Papa Ratz's' won't be a 'pontificate of small plans'

said Fr. Fausto Gomez, Dominican theologian of the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas in Manila. "Benedict XV was a peace-maker, a pope who was very much opposed to extreme nationalism. So I think Benedict XVI will be a Pope of peace in a divided world."

Born in 1927, Ratzinger was close to the era of Benedict XV (1914-1922), whose first four years and two months in the papacy were the years of the Great War. In 1917, Benedict XV condemned the war, urging that "the fundamental point should be that for the material force of arms should be substituted the moral force of the law."

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Thus, the new Pope, according to Gomez, would resist "the sidelining of God," especially in a Europe that "has become more and more indifferent to God." As his homily in the papal funeral Mass showed, the new Pope deplores that "there seems no respect for truth, which is shunted aside by materialism and individualism."

### European vision

But the name Benedict is also derived from the saint who founded the Benedictine order, whose monasteries became enclaves of peace and conservation during much of the ravages of the Dark Ages. Historians attribute the survival of the Church and indeed, of Western civilization, during those times when Europe was being overrun by the

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"MirrorMask: The Illustrated Film Script," the complete film book that presents the same breathtaking images captured in the "MirrorMask" movie, is PowerBooks Specialty Store's Book of the Month this August.

The volume contains the full screenplay and more than 1,700 illustrated storyboards of the major motion picture as well as



movie stills, comments, appreciations, and memories from the authors and filmmakers.

"MirrorMask" weaves the fantastic story of young Helena, daughter of the circus, and her remarkable mission to a place far beyond the extraordinary. Readers are taken along Helena's phantasmagoric quest to save a realm from chaos and shadow, and to gain back her stolen "real" life from an interloper from the other side.

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# New children's books from

POWERBOOKS has released several new children's titles.

"Tooth Trouble" and "Homework Hassles" are books in the series "Ready, Freddy!" by Abby Klein.

Freddy Thresher is in grade one and a shark enthusiast. Hidden in the sketches in the book is the word "fin" as in shark's fin. A writing and craft activity at the end will surely add more fun in reading.

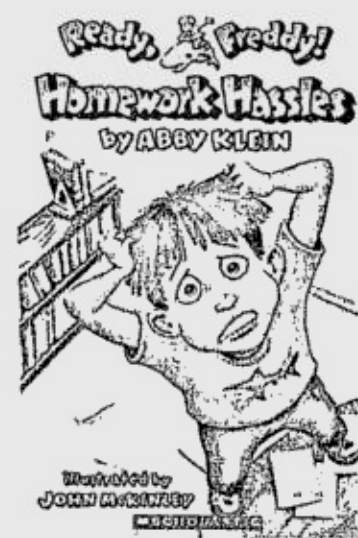
In "Tooth Trouble," Freddy is the only one in his class who has not lost a tooth, so he cannot put his name on the Big Tooth Poster in the classroom and so he tries all means just to lose one!

"Homework Hassles" poses yet another

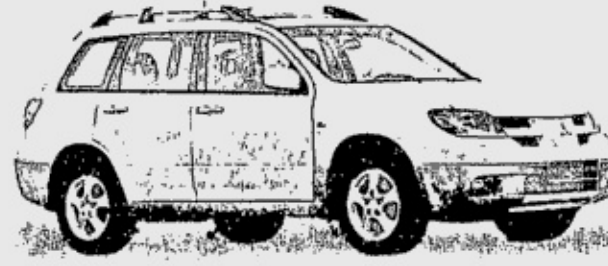
problem for Freddy. His teacher wants a report on nocturnal animals, and everybody but him has a really cool animal to study. Robbie, his best friend, suggests that they have a sleepover and sneak outside. Freddy finally gets his late-night wish in an unexpected way.

It's football season at Plumstead Middle School in Jerry Spinelli's book, "Who Ran My Underwear Up the Flagpole?"

Four friends are finally making something of themselves. Eddie has made the only touchdown the school has scored. Sunny has finally become the cheerleader that she always wanted to be. Salem is managing the foot-



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ESTYLE

# Book collects tributes of 'Noranians'

MILFLORES Publishing, Inc. has released "Si Nora Aunor sa Mga Noranian: Mga Paggunita at Pagtatapat," edited by Nestor De Guzman.

This unique anthology in Filipino is composed of 49 essays by a varied cross-section of Noranians on their memories of the cultural icon that is Nora Aunor and their confessions of the compelling reasons that drove them to become diehard fans.

The contributors include TV host and columnist, Boy Abunda; overseas Filipinos like AR Y. Castro from Canada, Milagros Long from Japan and Jojo Devera from New York; accomplished writers and academics like Dr. Domingo G. Landicho and Prof. Danton Remoto; housewife Rosita Salazar; Nora impersonator Lady Guy; massage therapist Ofelia Arce; retail marketing CEO Tim A. Capellan; architect

Marlon L. Antolin; and a host of others from all imaginable walks of life.

Most of the essays are funny, some are poignant and touching, others are insightful. All are short, entertaining reads.

The keys to understanding the cultural phenomenon of Nora Aunor, her enduring popularity and influence despite roller-coaster ups and downs in her personal and professional life, may be found in this book. And to comprehend Nora Aunor and her iconic stature is also to begin to understand the complexity of Philippine society in our turbulent times.

The editor, Nestor De Guzman, is a Noranian in very good standing. He is a graduate of English Studies (Imaginative Writing) from the U.P. in Diliman, Q.C.

"Si Nora Aunor sa Mga Noranian ..." is available at all National Book Stores, PowerBooks, Books for Less and other major book stores at P360 per copy. Call 7216431 or e-mail milflores@pacific.net.ph.



## m Scholastic

ball team with a suitcase full of snacks and treats, while Pickles is the leader of a marching band which everybody considers pitiable. Add to the mayhem skateboard riding and homework throwing, and yes, underwear hoisting up the flagpole. The book is a barrel of laughs and not without a moral lesson all set in the now and again chaotic environment we call grade school.

The courageous 14-year-old Princess Thirrin (whose full name is Thirrin Freer Strong-in-the-Arm Lindenshield, Wild Cat of the North) in "Cry of the Ice-mark" by Stuart Hill, ventures to form alliance with the Vampire sovereigns,

the Snow Leopards and the ferocious Wolf-folk.

Icemark, a tiny kingdom populated with werewolves and vampires is under siege, and defeat is imminent. Despite the fierce battle cry "Blood! Blast! And Fire!" the heroine, dauntless in the face of impossible dangers and decidedly wild at heart, is sure to be admired.

All titles are published by Scholastic Books Inc. and are available at PowerBooks which has branches at Greenbelt 4 (7576428-29), Megamall (6352898-99), Alabang Town Center (8505662-63), Glorietta (7527075), Shangri-La (6380023/25) and Robinson's Ermita (5233334/5243448).



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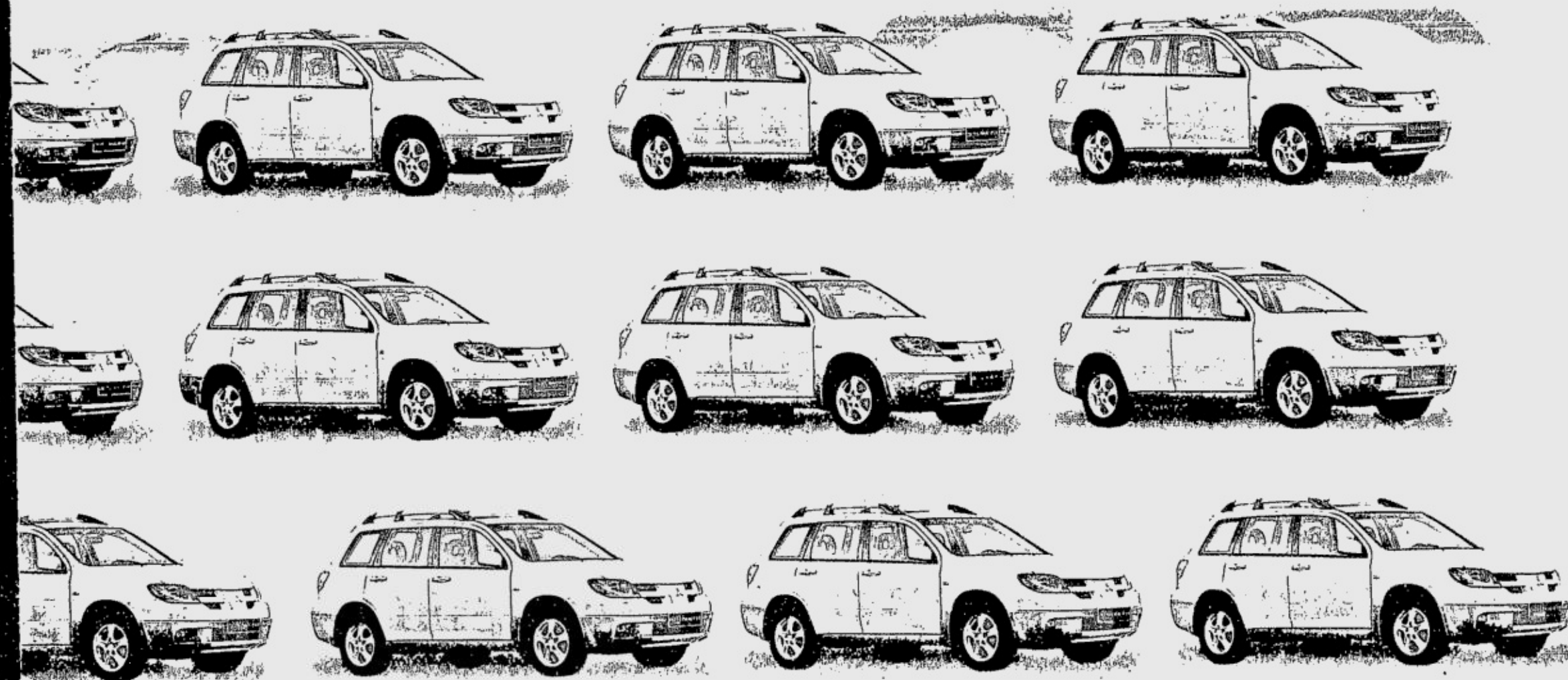
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## LIFESTYLE

## Filipinos are among world's most avid readers

Reading is not a lost art in the Philippines—this was indicated by the results of a recent survey conducted on 30,000 consumers over the age 13 in 30 countries.

In the NOP World Culture Score index, Filipinos ranked third as the world's most avid readers (reading 7.6 hours a week), trailing closely after the Indians (10.7 hours) and the Chinese (8 hours), and beating Americans (23th at 5.7 hours), Brits (26th at 5.3 hours) and Japanese (29th at 4.1 hours) by a long margin.

The results of the survey confirm what local publishers have been observing: Filipinos are developing a greater appreciation for reading. More and more bookstores are opening, the magazine industry is steadily rising, and there is bigger demand for reading materials in the



ILLUSTRATION BY  
ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Philippines today.

The Manila International Book Fair (MIBF) celebrates its 26th year with the theme "It's Hip to Read!" Slated Aug. 31-Sept. 4 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, MIBF once again unites local and foreign publishers, wholesalers, retailers, book lovers and collectors, librarians, authors, publishers' representatives, and every major player in the publishing industry in its continuing efforts to promote books and reading.

The book fair is organized by Primetrade Asia, Inc., in partnership with Asian Catholic Publishers, Inc.; Book Development Association of the Philippines; Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc.; and Publishers Representatives Organization of the Philippines. It is supported by the Philippine Educational Publishers Association; Book Ex-

porters Association of the Philippines; and Christian Booksellers Association-Philippine Chapter.

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#### Rio Alma

National Artist for Literature

"Reading is good exercise for the eyes and the mind. Books most especially are good for the mental health."

#### Bam Aquino

National Youth Commission chair and morning-show host

"Reading is interesting, exciting and enriching. It can ground you to reality or help you escape. In both cases, it sets you free. Reading is essential to a person's growth, an ingredient in a person's development. It makes a person engaging and attractive. It's the ultimate turn-on,

the gift that keeps on giving!"

#### Chico Garcia

RX93.1 DJ

"It's hip because you're a step in front of the rest of the pack. Everyone's watched the 'Lord of the Rings' trilogy, but how many people do you know read it?"

#### Jones Campos

Head, public relations, Globe Telecom

"Reading preempts a movie blockbuster. It keeps you smiling and notably aware all throughout the screening, just munching away at the popcorn on hand."

#### Lisa Macuja-Elizalde

Prima ballerina

"It's cool to read because you can transform into anything and anyone you want or dream of becoming. You can go to any place you want to be. You can learn about any subject you can think about. You can change your very being. Just think about all that power!"

#### Kip Oebanda

Founder, Child Laborers Advocates for Social Participation, Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) awardee

"It's hip to read because you can learn interesting things, like how to be hip or how to shape your hips. You can even read about learning how to read. There are so many blessings in reading, but the most important of them all is the ability to experience another person, another world and another reality in the comfort of your room."

#### Joseph Patrick Echevarria

Valedictorian, Ateneo de Manila University Batch 2005 and TOSP awardee

"When I was 12, my father used to read to me stories by Edgar Allan Poe, like 'The Cask of Amontillado.' More than 10 years later, I can still see Fortunato following the flickering flame, going deeper and deeper into the catacombs... Reading captures the imagination and allows us to witness whole lives, centuries of experiences, and even dreams of the future. And it is often through them that we learn what it means to love, to yearn, to hope—what it means to be human. It is one of those rare acts that not only make us feel alive, but also make us better people."

#### Arnold Clavio

Broadcaster

"Because you can create a world you want to be [in] kahit na for a moment lang. You can be a hero or a villain without any worries on how people will judge you. Syempre, stock knowledge yun. It's a good mind exercise that might help prevent you from having Alzheimer's disease."

#### Marian Catedral

Caltech Phils., policy, government and public affairs head

"It's cool to be eating alone in a restaurant while reading a book. Reading is the foundation of one's future success."

#### Barge Ramos

Fashion designer

"It's hip and cool to read because reading keeps your mind young, inquisitive, logical and always with a sense of wonder about people, God and the world around us."

#### Irene Rada

Head, public relations, Cultural Center of the Philippines

"Reading opens new avenues of reflection which makes one a better person."

#### Ramon Rocha III

CEO, OMF Literature

"Reading not only develops a person's intelligence; it broadens one's perspective as well, allowing the reader to venture into different worlds, step into the lives of the characters, and share their experiences and emotions. Leaders are readers. One cannot go very far without reading, and by cultivating a love for reading, we develop a healthy nation and intelligent population."

#### Gerard Salonga

Composer/arranger

"Reading is to one's mind and soul as working out at the gym is to one's body. Our bodies fade and fall apart, but a powerful mind lasts much longer. There's nothing hipper or cooler than someone with a rich soul and a powerful mind."

#### Peachy Guiogui

Manager, public relations, ABS-CBN

"Reading is a great way to enhance our knowledge. It can stimulate us mentally and gives us the opportunity to learn about things, places and culture. Besides, reading is the most hassle-free way to go to your favorite destination. You don't even have to leave the comforts of your home. You just have to use your imagination."

#### Panch Alcaraz

Children's book illustrator

"Reading makes you smarter and increases your vocabulary. [It] opens up your mind and fuels your imagination."

#### Marvin Agustín

Actor

"Because it's good for the soul to read every day. I believe that if I stick with the things I already know and not open myself up to other people, then I will for sure stagnate and deprive myself of the fulfillment of learning."

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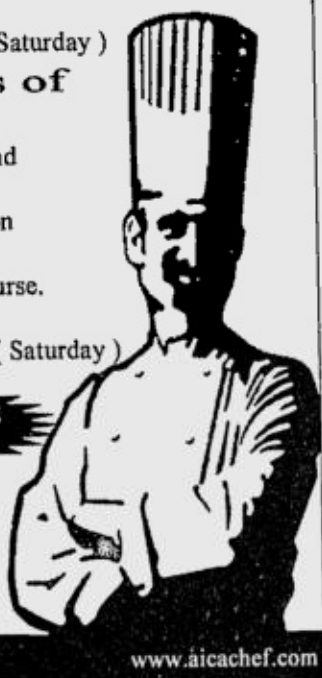
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## Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary turns 50

OUR Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary, the archdiocesan seminary of Manila, will mark its 50th foundation anniversary on Aug. 21-22 with the theme "A Heart That Prays... A Heart That Serves: Onwards to 50 Years of Forming the Youth as Servant Leaders of Filipino Christian Communities."

Highlights of the two-day festivity are the Eucharistic celebrations to be officiated by Archbishop Antonio Franco, D.D., apostolic nuncio to the Philippines, on Aug. 21, 6 p.m., and by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, on Aug. 22, 11 a.m. Both Masses will be held at the seminary chapel. Expected to spice up the homecoming is

the variety show on Aug. 21, 8 p.m., to be top-billed by the alumni, parents and students. This will be directed by multi-awarded tv and film director Maryo J. de los Reyes, an alumnus of the seminary.

There will be a special performance on Aug. 22 at 1 p.m. of the Loboc Children's Choir under music director Lutgardo Labad, also an alumnus.

Former administrators, academic and non-academic personnel, and alumni, especially the golden jubilarians (Class 1955) and silver jubilarians (Class 1980), are enjoined to attend, according to Fr. Rolando Agustín, seminary rector. Call 8958964.

## A Pope of Surprises

From page E1

tribes from the north, to the monks who copied ceaselessly ancient manuscripts and kept them in libraries, which later became the guidebooks for philosophical and scientific advancements during the Medieval Age, when the Church achieved its golden age.

To be sure, Benedict XVI has indicated he would try to reaffirm the Christian roots of Western civilization amid the tide of secularism which may yet be a guise for atheism and anti-clericalism. Thus, he is expected to rebuild the Church in Europe while making sure it is consolidated elsewhere in the world and strengthening ecumenical programs with other churches and religions.

Allen's and Bardazzi's books are particularly helpful in mining the thoughts of Ratzinger that may prove useful in predicting how Benedict XVI will carry out his papacy. But in the rush to strike while the iron is hot, the books have run into editorial slapdash. In Allen's book, there is this flawed use of tenses: "In the past, when the Pope has been hospitalized, tape recordings have been made of his greetings in case he was not capable of delivering them live, and then his condition was analyzed shortly beforehand to determine if the tape was necessary." Bardazzi says that Schillebeeckx, like Kung, was "censured" and "disciplined" for his Christology. This is not correct. The Flemish Dominican might have been subjected to the Roman inquisition several times, but he has never been sanctioned. He remains in the good grace of the Church and at 90, is still

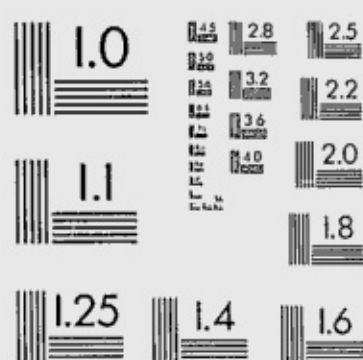
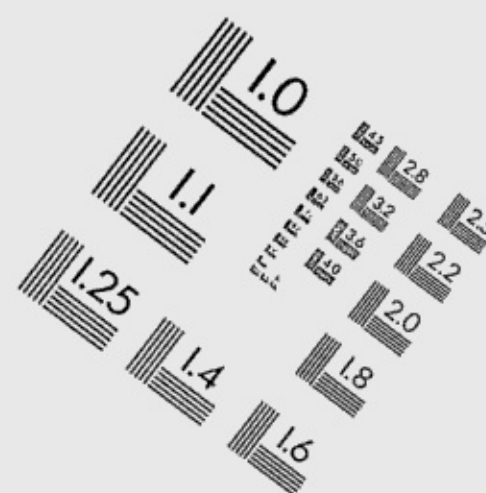
writing and living the life of a Dominican monk and scholar in the Netherlands. But all of this is forgivable since the books are packed with helpful information and interesting insights.

In the end, the three books provide readers a multi-dimensional appreciation of the mind and spirit of Benedict XVI. They show that the new pope is open to change while in full command of two millennia of Catholic tradition and thought that empower him to separate the chaff from the grain. To be sure, sometimes his vision borders on the somber and the dark as he has expressed willingness to see the Catholic majority go in the face of secularism and faintheartedness for a "creative minority" who could animate the faith, evincing the dark Augustinian bias of his theology as against, say, the Dominican-Thomistic spirit that ultimately looks at the world, wars and all, as redeemable by grace. The papal state of mind reminds us of Julian Green's 1941 reflection: "Is it possible that the day may come when the truth will be represented by a few thousand persecuted Catholics, having at their head a little old man in a white cassock who will be hidden away in some catacomb? 'When the Son of Man returns on earth, do you think he will find faith there?'"

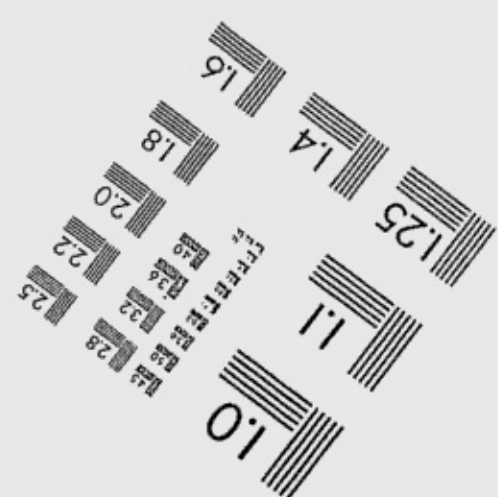
Benedict XVI is clearly not incorrigible optimist. But he is also not a defeatist. He is prepared to dig in, like the true fortress that is the Church, and spring a surprise.

The books are available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore.



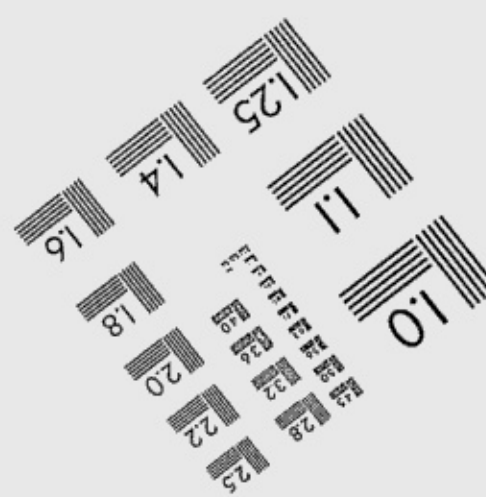


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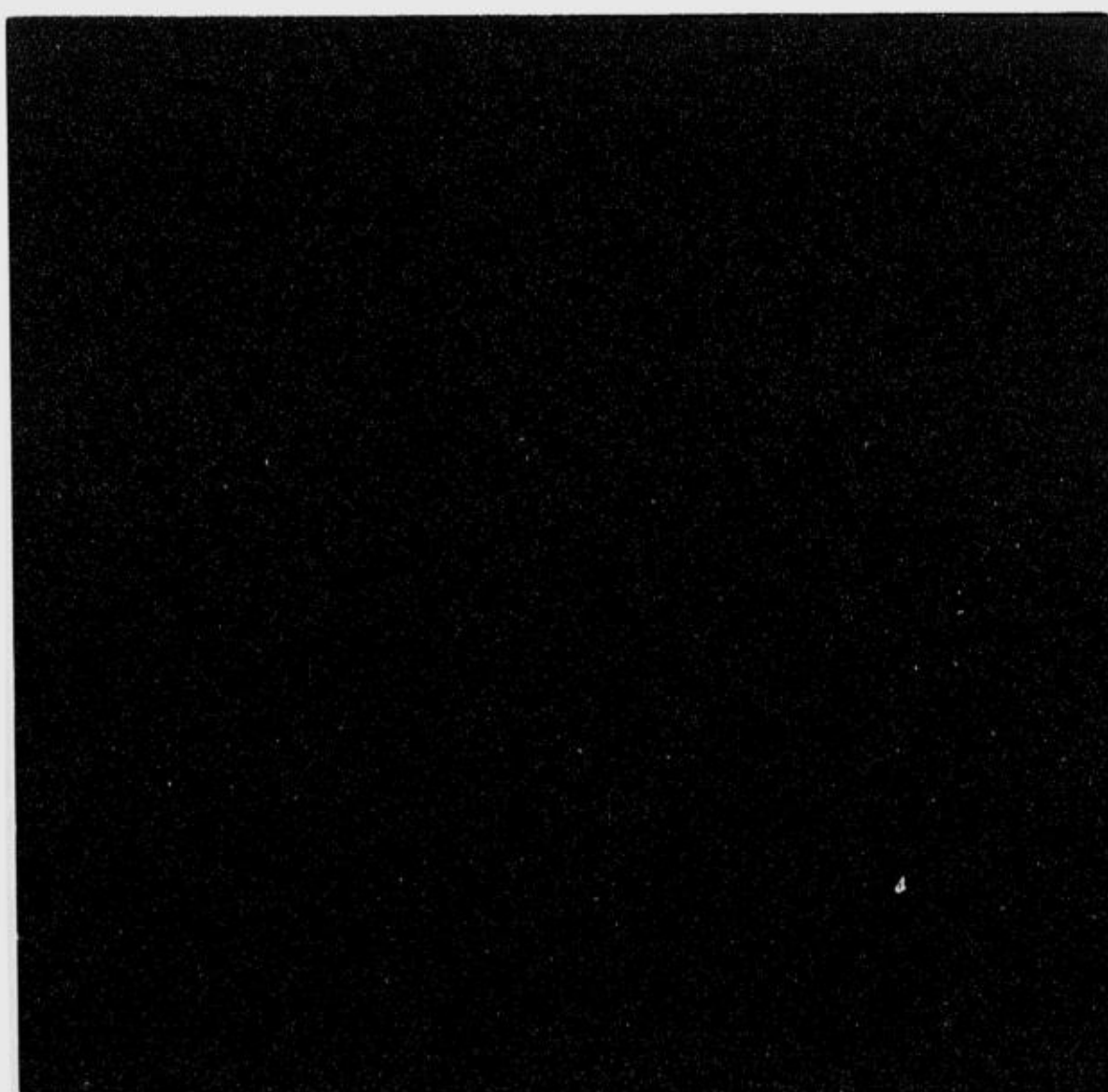
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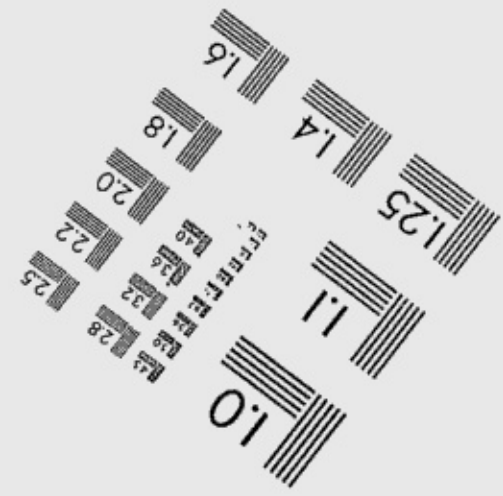
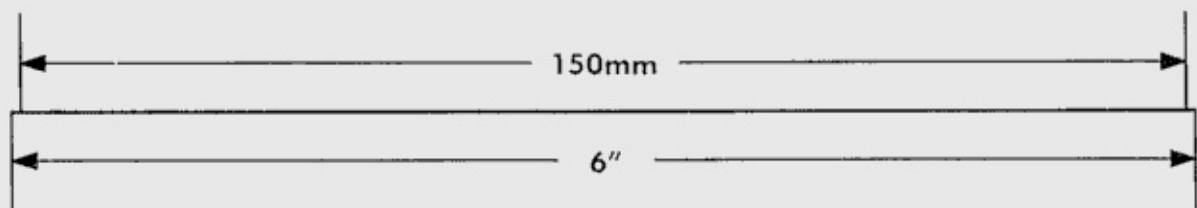
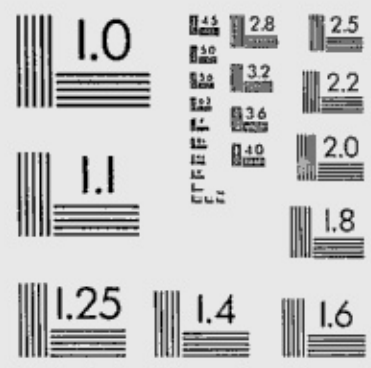
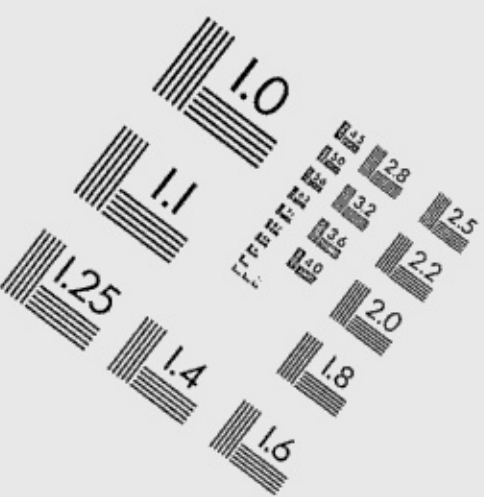
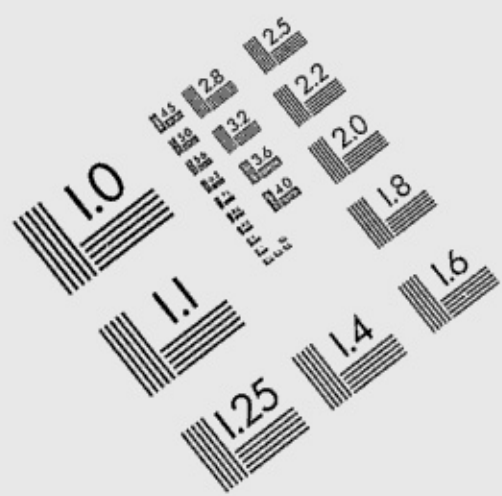
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